

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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

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

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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1773 HD1
RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

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

Hearing: Monday, February 26, 2024, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room 308

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **strongly supports** the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Law
- 3 Enforcement.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes mandatory dementia training within the Department of
- 6 Law Enforcement to help officers recognize the signs of Alzheimer's disease and related
- 7 dementias (ADRD) and utilize best practice for interacting with persons living with ADRD.
- 8 Hawaii is number 1 in life expectancy at 80.7 years of age. 1 in 4 individuals are over the age of
- 9 60. 27.8% of older adults live with a disability and in 2020, an estimated 29,000 elders are living

1 with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease in
2 Hawai'i is expected to rise to 35,000, a more than 20 percent increase from 2020.
3 For those living in our community with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, it is
4 important to understand the signs and adopt best practices for interacting with these
5 individuals.

6 **Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of
7 Law Enforcement for implementation.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 26, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Kyle Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1773 HD1 RELATING TO DEMENTIA

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1773 HD1**, which requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. Requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least one hour per year. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

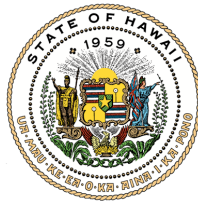
The Council supports efforts to further the knowledge of our local police officers when engaging with vulnerable populations. Many lessons learned on how to work with or speak to an individual with dementia also apply to the behavioral challenges that individuals with developmental disabilities present. A more educated and understanding police force makes for a safer community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1773 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1773, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Before the House Committee on Finance

Monday, February 26, 2024; 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) submits the following supporting **comments** on House Bill 1774, House Draft 1.

The law enforcement goals of this bill are significant to all sectors of our community. Courts and legislative bodies have made it clear that our law enforcement officers are required to take a closer look when they arrive on scene, if they can safely do so, with the goal of better understanding any interaction, encounter, or response for the purpose of helping those who may be in crisis, suffering from some form of crisis or impairment whether physical, developmental, cognitive, psychological, mental health, or substance disorder influencing their behavior. When they can safely do so, officers do their best to look at the entire picture of the encounter when formulating what action needs to be taken. Training like this is a vital component to safe community-oriented policing, but this bill should be included in the training and efforts of law enforcement to address crisis intervention which includes the area of need contemplated by this bill.

The DLE recommends supporting SB 2345, SD2, which establishes trained crisis intervention officers within state and county law enforcement agencies and addresses crisis intervention training for all law enforcement officers and departments state-wide.

However, until the House can act on SB 2345, SD 2, which will be crossing over to the House, the DLE recommends that this bill continue to keep this effort moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit supporting comments on this bill.

HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 8:41:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We think this is a great idea and are in strong support. At the hearing I will relay a personal experience which illustrates the need for greater coordination in situations such as this.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

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

Monday, February 26, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1773, HD1 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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.

UPW **supports** HB1773, HD1, which requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer’s disease and related types of dementia. This bill also requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least one hour per year.

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. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 36,000.

Furthermore, a person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. Additionally, individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms as the disease progresses. As a result, there may be cases of false reports related to victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

UPW believes that dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease, and such training ensures our State can protect these individuals and the families who care for them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HEADQUARTERS

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Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1773, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

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. 1774, House Draft 1, RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

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 bill, as received by your Committee, would require the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia, and require law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least one hour per year.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 3000.

According to the Center for Disease Control:

- Alzheimer's disease is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States;
- The 6th leading of death among US adults; and
- The 5th leading cause of death among adults aged 65 years or older.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1773, House Draft 1
Monday, February 26, 2024; 10:00 a.m.
Page 2

In 2023, an estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 year or older had Alzheimer's disease. **This number is projected to nearly triple to 14 million people by 2060.**

Further, death rates for Alzheimer's disease are increasing, unlike heart disease and cancer death rates that are on the decline. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, has shown to be under-reported in death certificates and therefore the proportion of older people who die from Alzheimer's may be considerably higher.

In Hawaii, Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis:

- 29,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in Hawaii;
- 6.7% of people aged 45 and older have subjective cognitive decline;
- 60,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in Hawaii;
- 91 million hours of unpaid care are provided by Alzheimer's caregivers;
- \$1.9 billion is the value of the unpaid care; and
- \$240 million is the cost of Alzheimer's to the State Medicaid Program.

For these reasons, during the interim prior to the 2024 Regular Session, the HPCA worked closely with the Hawaii Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in researching, drafting, and providing outreach on the bill that is presently before you. Accordingly, we are honored to partner with the Alzheimer's Association on this important measure and urge your favorable consideration.

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.

2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

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Caroline Witherspoon
*President
Becker Communications*

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

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance Monday, February 26, 2024; 10:00 a.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1773 HOUSE DRAFT 1 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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 testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill No. 1773 House Draft 1 and offer an amendment 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. This figure is projected to increase to over 35,000 by next year. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would require the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. **Law enforcement officers would then review these materials annually at no cost for a minimum of an hour.** The training would include (1) strategies for recognizing the key signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia; (2) strategies for assessing cognition; (3) best practices for interacting with persons living with the disease; and (4) strategies to best identify and intervene in situations where the persons may be at particular risk of abuse or neglect. These foundational elements allow law enforcement officers to communicate effectively with those with the disease in our communities. This will be made effective on July 1, 3000.

The Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests that the bill be amended to take **effect on July 1, 2024**.

With this change, we ask you to pass House Bill No. 1773 House Draft 1. The "Silver Tsunami" is upon us. Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals now and in the future.

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



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024
Conference Room 308, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for H.B. 1773, HD1 Relating to Dementia

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. 1773 HD1 which requires the law enforcement board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia.

With the rapidly aging population in Hawaii, the number of person afflicted with the Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related conditions is also increasing. Unfortunately, six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address — and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Law enforcement officers may often be the first responder to encounter a missing person with dementia. Unfortunately, people with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Law enforcement officers may not know how to work with people in these situations — leading to more confusion. Therefore, requiring dementia training for law enforcement officers benefits both parties. Being educated of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia as well as the safety of the law enforcement officers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 1773, HD1.



February 24, 2024

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

Re: SUPPORT of HB1773 HD1- Relating to Dementia (Law Enforcement Training)

Hrg: Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00am

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA supports HB 1773 HD1 as the bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals.

HPHA strongly supports HB 1773 HD1 and respectfully asks that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.597.6550
www.papaolalokahi.org

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

Monday, February 26, 2024, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: HB 1773 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies **in support** of HB 1773, which sets an educational requirement on dementia for law enforcement officers. People with dementia may wander and be unable to provide basic identifying information such as name or address. We support efforts that increase the ability of law enforcement officers to identify and help community members with dementia, who may be or become anxious or upset if they are wandering.

The education of law enforcement officers to increase safe engagements with people with dementia is key, as the role of first responders is critical. Efforts such as HB 1773 may serve as a helpful foundation to examine if there are additional dementia training needs in the state workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this critical legislation.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

RE: HB1773 HD1 RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB1773 HD1**, which amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplemental security income or public assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

The Chamber not only prioritizes economic leadership but also advocates for "quality of life" issues impacting its members, their employees, and families. It supports initiatives to improve local police officers' understanding of vulnerable populations, recognizing that skills developed in dealing with dementia also aid in handling the behavioral challenges of individuals with developmental disabilities. A knowledgeable and empathetic police force contributes to community safety.

With the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease expected to surpass 35,000 next year, the Chamber highlights the significant challenges associated with dementia. These challenges include memory loss, disorientation, wandering, and behavioral changes, which escalate the need for quality caregiving. Feedback from members indicates that neglecting the caregiving industry contributes to workforce shortages, ultimately hindering business growth.

The Chamber supports this measure and recognizes its implementation will contribute towards further upgrading our national standing in general and as being of profound benefit to our local community.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.



Testimony before the House Committee on Finance

HB 1773, HD 1 RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00 am

Conference Room 308, State Capitol

By Glen Higa, President

Hawaii Parkinson Association

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

The Hawaii Parkinson Association strongly supports HB 1773, HD 1. This bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least one hour per year at no cost.

Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing neurological diseases, with someone in the US diagnosed every 6 minutes. In Hawaii, approximately 8,000 people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's and that number expected to double by 2030. Roughly 80% will also suffer from cognitive impairment or dementia as a result of Parkinson's disease.

In Hawaii, we take care of our kupuna. Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of this disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. We strongly urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



February 26, 2024

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Finance
In Support of

HB 1773 HD1- RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** HB 1773, which requires appropriate training for law enforcement officers to prepare them to engage with persons living with dementia and Alzheimer's.

The mission of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is to effectively advocate for the educational, civic, health, cultural, economic, and social well-being of our lāhui. We are especially concerned about the care of kūpuna and we support this measure as it can be as proper training by law enforcement personnel can make a significant difference in addressing the growing number of people in Hawai'i who suffer from impaired cognition and diseases like dementia and Alzheimer's. Training can help law enforcement personnel better identify signs of dementia and better respond to anxiety, fear, and hostile behaviors. Many of our members have family who are directly affected by dementia.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 61 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,000 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 26, 2024

H.B. 1773, H.D. 1 — RELATING TO DEMENTIA

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1773, H.D. 1, which requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia and requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is appropriate to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 1773, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 26, 2024

House Committee on Finance
Representative Yamashita, Chair
Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Re: **Bill HB1773 HD1 - RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

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

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and healthcare industries. We are in SUPPORT of HB1773 – HD1. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year at no cost.

There are approximately 29,000 individuals in Hawaii living with Alzheimer's disease and that number is projected to increase to 35,000 by next year. Many of our members have already been touched by this heart-breaking disease. Others will likely to be affected in the future.

The elderly, cognitively impaired and developmentally disabled are among the most vulnerable in our community. We appreciate the introducers of these bills. Please pass HB1773 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 25, 2024

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

Re: Support for HB1773 HD1 Relating to Dementia

Mtg: Monday, February 26, 2024

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HB1773 HD1**, which would require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, is expected to rise to over 35,000, a more than 20% increase from 2020. Caregivers to those with Alzheimer's disease provide more than 91 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$1.9 billion.ⁱⁱ

A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address. Even in a familiar setting they can become disoriented. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility. These can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses, and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Through education, law enforcement officers will be better equipped to help these individuals when there is a need. It is a way that our community can come together to support those with dementia and their caregivers. No one should be expected to work alone when it comes to caregiving, and through this bill a strong support network can be developed and thereby support health and well being. Our communities should work together to keep our ohanas safe.

We applaud the Legislature for helping to strengthen our communities. And thank this committee for this opportunity to

submit supportive testimony for HB1773 HD1. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Mierzwa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawaii Public Health Institute

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Data/Sites/1/media/HADSSP/booklet-state-plan-drd-3-23-web.rev102323.pdf>

HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:50:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Tabor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1773

RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00 am

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Thank you, Chair Lisa Marten, Vice Chair Terez Amato, and Members of the Committee for hearing this important bill.

My name is Rick Tabor. I am the son of a recently deceased dementia Mother (February 7, 2024) and a member of several Kupuna boards, councils and task forces. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1773. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year at no cost.

In my thirty years as a clinician/manager at Seattle Mental Health, I was part of the team that developed and implemented the Crisis Intervention Training. CIT training provides education, skills and resources to better equip first responders to help individuals access the most appropriate and least restrictive services, while preserving public safety. Crisis Intervention Training is required by all full-time Washington First Rrsponders according to, WAC 139-09, and RCW 43.101.427.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I would like to ask that HB 1773 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rick Tabor

232 Koalele Street, Honolulu, HI.

rtabor12@twc.com

HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:19:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa H. Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 3:24:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner, and I and my wife Deborah are in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773 HD1**. This legislation would require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year at no cost.

The number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease continues to grow as our longevity increases. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of this disease and ensure our State is capable of safely protecting the individuals suffering from it. To often we see in the news sad reports of Public Safety Officers mishandling their encounters with individuals suffering from this or similar diseases. These tragedies can and must be eliminated. Thank you for your continued support of this legislation and for the opportunity to testify in its behalf.

Dan Gardner Honolulu, HI



Testimony on House Bill No. 1773
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

Aloha, my name is Peggy Kalalau], and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My husband Joel was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's at the age of 56. Joel is a father to our three adult children and a grandfather to three beautiful grandchildren. When we got the news of his diagnosis, it was a complete shock to our whole ohana. Since then, he has slowly progressed through the different stages of the disease. He is now 64 years old. It has been a learning experience for us all and one that we do not wish upon any ohana.

I am sharing this because, we want to see the Silver Alert program put into place in our state of Hawai'i. As part of this disease, we have experienced Joel's wandering and getting lost one time too many. The first time he wandered from home, he walked more than two miles from home and could not tell me where he was. My ohana sprang into action, and my nephew found him walking on a street far from home. He was exhausted and disoriented. The second time, he called me from inside someone else's home telling me that he was home. I was at home, and I was telling him that he was not home. I told him to go outside and go onto the road. I then drove about a mile down the road and found him standing in the middle of the road. Again, exhausted, and disoriented. These two occurrences scared the life out of us. I knew then that he could not stay at home alone anymore.

I didn't know what to do. I have never experienced something like this before. If we didn't find him, we would have called the police but who knows how long it would take for us to locate him. What if he walked into someone's home again? What if they didn't understand that he has a medical condition? He looks young and at first glance you would think that he is a normally functioning adult. It is not until you talk to him, that you may realize there is a problem. Not many would take the time to talk if they are startled by a stranger in their home.

With the Silver Alert in place, we could send out a message to others so the chances of locating him would be much greater. Also, if someone encountered him, they would know what to do.

I beg you to please pass HB 1774 to help my ohana, my husband and all the others in our state who suffer from illnesses and diseases beyond their control.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I would like to ask that HB 1773 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Peggy Kalalau
Kea'au, Hawai'i

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

February 26, 2024

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

Re: **HB 1773 HD1 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA**
Testimony in Strong Support

I strongly support HB 1773 HD1.

Hawaii needs training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease that must be reviewed by law enforcement officers.


In Hawaii there are over 29,000 individuals in Hawaii with Alzheimer's disease and that number is projected to increase as Hawaii's population gets older. Despite these staggering numbers, Alzheimer's disease still carries a stigma, is misunderstood, and feared within the Hawaii community.

Individuals with Alzheimer's may exhibit signs of anxiety, fear and even hostility. The general public may misunderstand these behaviors and call law enforcement for assistance when individuals with these behaviors are encountered. In turn, law enforcement may not recognize such behaviors as a sign of Alzheimer's or another dementia. However, with appropriate training, law enforcement will be able to recognize behaviors as a sign of Alzheimer's or another dementia and understand how to interact and best help these individuals.

While caregivers bear the responsibility of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another dementia, at some point caregivers may need the help of law enforcement. If law enforcement does not have the proper knowledge, understanding and empathy, I fear that our vulnerable population suffering from dementia may not be appropriately helped. I urge you to pass HB 1773 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steven Tam
Honolulu, Hawaii



HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:01:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Hara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Calvin Hara and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773**. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year at no cost.


In my thirty years career in senior care, I have seen the rise in kupuna with dementia from the initial diagnosis to later stages. It is very important that law enforcement officers are familiar with dementia to better serve residents living in the community and from time to time need the assistance of law enforcement officer.

The number of people in Hawaii with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia continue to rise annually. As such, dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I would like to ask that HB 1773 be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii



HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 2:44:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ohad Amidor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten, Vice Chair Terez Amato, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ohad Amidor, and I am a social work student in the master's program at UH Manoa. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773**. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year at no cost.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I would like to ask that HB 1773 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor, Haiku, HI



HB-1773-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:12:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

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. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year at no cost.

I’m asking for this because my father suffered some form of dementia for a 10-15 year period before he passed away in 2016. I know that police were called to his home because of his violent behavior, and I would like to know that our officers are aware of what dementia looks like, and treat people with kindness as much as possible.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I would like to ask that HB 1773 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii

