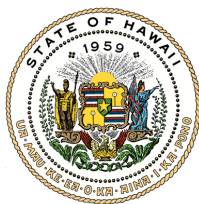


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

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

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1774, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 7, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Jordan Lowe, Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

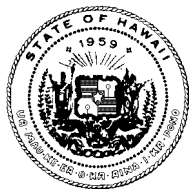
The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** House Bill 1774 House Draft 1.

This bill establishes a Silver Alert program within the DLE to give the community a critical tool to help locate and protect missing kupuna and those who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. We currently have the Amber Alert program to serve the same function for endangered children and youth. However, a similar tool currently does not exist for the elderly, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. This bill helps fill this extremely needed void for the protection of these people.

The DLE recommends \$250,000 for the appropriation amount of this bill.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 6, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1774 HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Hearing: February 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Executive Office on Aging. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not displace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The Committee on Human Services amended the measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS acknowledges that establishing a Silver Alert system raises privacy concerns for the individual as well as the individual's family and may not be very effective if the system is not

February 6, 2024

Page 2

sufficiently resourced and coordinated. However, a [recent article](#) analyzing Silver Alert activations in Texas from 2017-2022 described high activations involving older men using vehicles on holidays and Wednesdays during the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Perhaps additional resources and strategies for providers and families could be developed to raise awareness about access to cars.

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



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 07, 2024

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Tarnas and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1774 HD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1774 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.

Silver Alerts, such as those activated under HB1774 HD1, are vital tools in ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities who may go missing. These alerts provide immediate information to the public, facilitating swift action to locate and safeguard at-risk persons. Given the vulnerability of individuals with developmental disabilities to wandering and becoming lost, the implementation of Silver Alerts in Hawaii is crucial for their protection.

The success of Silver Alert programs in thirty-seven other states, as highlighted by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), underscores their effectiveness in aiding the recovery of at-risk individuals. By enacting HB1774 HD1, Hawaii has the opportunity to join the ranks of states with robust missing person alert systems, thereby enhancing the safety and security of all residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB1774 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1774, HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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** HB1774, HD1, which establishes, and appropriates funds for, a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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.

Silver Alert or similar programs have been established in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii is one of the few states that does not have a public notification system that can aid in the recovery of missing persons with a cognitive impairment. UPW believes that a Silver Alert program is desperately needed to ensure our State can protect these individuals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

KAUAI

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Conference Room 325, 2:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Strong Support for H.B. 1774 HD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Tarnas 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 strongly supports H.B. 1774 HD1 which establishes a silver alert program within the Dept. of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety.

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. Having a statewide Silver Alert, a public notification system used to broadcast information about missing persons, will help find and protect vulnerable persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia who wander. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized Silver Alert. We are long overdue for a system that will aid in the missing person's recovery and safe return back home.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 1774 HD1.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 7, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1774, HOUSE DRAFT 1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, 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 MISSING PERSONS.

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 establish a “Silver Alert” Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety.

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.

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.**

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774, House Draft 1
Wednesday, February 7, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

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

Lori McCarney, Chair
Community Advocate

Dr. Pokii Balaz, Immediate
Past Chair
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Kokua Kalih Valley*

Tricia Medeiros, Past Chair
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Caroline Witherspoon
*President
Becker Communications*

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

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Wednesday, February 7, 2024; 2:00 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325, and Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1774 HOUSE DRAFT 1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, 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. 1774 House Draft 1.**

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 appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of a blank amount or so much thereof for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Department of Law Enforcement to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. This will be made effective on July 1, 3000.

Our research indicates that Hawaii is the only state that does not have a formalized silver alert program. There is no federal funding or mandate for it. It is the onus of the state or jurisdiction to establish the alert in statute, policy, or procedure. Across the nation, we have seen varying population criteria used, which include those who are at the age of sixty-five or older, with cognitive impairments, or with developmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or epilepsy.

The Alzheimer's Association remains steadfast in its position to seek a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of persons living with dementia and their families and effectively disseminates relevant information about missing individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias to the appropriate local law enforcement and community support networks. **We ask you to pass House Bill No. 1774 House Draft 1.**

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

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:58:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a great idea and I will relate at the hearing a personal experience I had which illustrates the need.

**House of Representatives
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
2:00 p.m.**

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Re: HB 1774 HD 1, Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair David Tarnas, Vice-Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

I am Lila Mower, President of Kokua Council, one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups with over 800 members and affiliates in Hawaii.

I am a director on the board of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, which has a local membership of over 20,000 retiree-members of AFL-CIO, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, HGEA, IAM, CAN, and other organizations.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 1774 HD 1** that seeks to establish a Silver Alert program in Hawaii, much like the thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have implemented to locate missing kupuna.

Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have programs formally called "Silver Alert," and an additional nine states have similar programs that go by other names and serve to help locate missing kupuna in their communities.¹ Ten of these states have missing person alert systems that apply to larger categories of endangered persons or apply to all missing persons, regardless of age or impairment.²

"By 2035, when the last baby boomer reaches retirement age, nearly 1 in 3 Hawaii residents will be over the age of 60. The more significant change, demographers say, will be a sharp increase in the number of residents over 80 — an age at which people are more likely to have one or more disabilities and need additional health care and assistance with the basics of everyday life."³

As our population ages, the prevalence of dementia will grow, giving reason to support this measure. "Approximately 6 out of 10 people with dementia wander at least once. Up to half of wandering older adults with dementia will be seriously injured or die if not detected within 24 hours."⁴ "Community-aided immediate search activities are often successful at finding missing individuals with dementia."⁵

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Alert

² <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/silver-alert>

³ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/06/hawaiis-population-is-aging-fast-the-impacts-will-be-significant/>

⁴ <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/silver-alert>

⁵ Analysis of Silver Alert Reporting System Activations for Missing Adults With Dementia in Texas, 2017 to 2022, Anthony D. McDonald, PhD, Valerie Danesh, PhD, RN, John M. Ray, PhD, and Alan B. Stevens, PhD



Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
2:00 p. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325 and via videoconference

Re: HB 1774 HD 1 Relating to Missing Persons

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawai'i 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. I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty-five years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition.

The **Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB 1774 HD 1**, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled; and appropriates funds.

The silver alert program can save lives.

We urge you to support the silver alert program and HB 1774 HD 1, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

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

Gary Simon



Email gsimon@aarp.org

HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o Hawaii Education Association
1953 Beretania Street, #5C
Honolulu, HI 96826

February 5, 2024

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1774, HD1
Relating to Missing Persons

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, , 2024; 2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
and video conference

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

My name is Joanne Kealoha, representing the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA **supports** H.B. 1774, HD1, which establishes a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to “rapidly” alert the public of missing persons who are vulnerable kupuna and persons with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities.

HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 21,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA’s affiliates include retired members of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, AFT, IAM, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.

Individuals with cognitive impairment, including those with dementia, Alzheimer’s Disease and developmental disabilities, are particularly vulnerable if they wander away from home or caregivers and are unable to share with others who they are and where they live.

Many years ago, my own grandmother suffered from dementia and one day walked out of her home and wandered onto a busy street. Fortunately, family worked quickly to search the neighborhood and found her, disoriented and frightened. My grandmother did not look like she had a cognitive impairment and did not ask anyone for help so she could have wandered for some time before anyone realized she was vulnerable. A Silver Alert program could activate law enforcement and other resources to be on the alert to find a missing person more quickly.

Subsection (g) (3) of H.B. 1774, HD1 specifies that the “person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.” However, persons with cognitive impairments are vulnerable because of their impairments, which are neither “unexplained” nor “under suspicious circumstances.” If this condition must be met to trigger a Silver Alert, the intent of the bill may be compromised.

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans requests that subsection (g) (3) be reconsidered and urges passage of H.B. 1774, HD1. Thank you for considering our testimony.

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:15:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Aban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for HB 1774 HD1 - Establishment of Silver Alert Program

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cindy Aban, a Medical Assistant, and Executive Board Member of the Healthcare Division at Unite Here Local 5. I express **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 1774 HD1, a crucial bill aiming to establish a silver alert program, assisting in locating and safeguarding missing persons aged sixty-five or older, with cognitive impairment or developmental disabilities.

During my childhood, we encountered the daunting task of finding my late great-grandfather, Tomas Dolormente, who battled dementia. Swiftly locating him was a stroke of fortune, thanks to the utilization of local Filipino radio stations, the unwavering support of friends and family, and the assistance from HPD. The implementation of a program like this would undoubtedly be invaluable for generations to come.

As the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to exceed 35,000 next year, the significance of this bill cannot be overstated. Dementia can cause individuals to become disoriented and prone to wandering, leading to heightened anxiety, fear, and potential aggressive behaviors. With Hawaii lacking a formalized silver alert, passing HB 1774 HD1 is essential.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Cindy Aban
Medical Assistant and Executive Board Member
Healthcare Division, Unite Here Local 5
Waipahu, HI
Email: caban54@gmail.com

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:33:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rielle Rasmussen	Oahu Search and Rescue	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774 HD1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rielle Rasmussen, and I am the canine handler for Oahu Search and Rescue. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons. I am here to voice the support of this bill both of my own accord and on behalf of Oahu Search and Rescue.

Let me start by saying that yes, I do have personal experience with being the sole caregiver of family members of advanced age and whom were afflicted by memory loss. I know what its like to call to check in when they are supposed to be home, only to have the phone ring without answer. I know the build of anxiety as you wait for a call back that doesnt come. I know very well the panic and hysteria as you race down the freeway to their home while thinking the worst and praying that youre wrong. I am also **FORTUNATE** enough to know the knee weakening relief that comes from flying open their door and finding them sitting at home safe and sound. But what if they werent? What would I do? Would anyone help me? These are the unfathomable questions I asked myself after every episode. It is these questions, and the underacknowledged reality of their answers that I am here to testify about. I was lucky enough not to have to face the horror of an endangered loved one truly going missing, but so many families here on Oahu have not been so lucky. Others have been lucky enough to have their loved ones return on their own or

are able to find them through community searches. The problem is just that. We are relying on LUCK as the primary solution to a serious and growing danger to our Kupuna. It is unacceptable that someone who meets the criteria of an endangered adult can go missing and that there is no appropriately scaled, proactive response in place to come to the immediate aid of them and their family. Due to this lack of response and resource I started looking for my own ways to help this ever growing part of our community.

As a search and rescue canine handler I train specifically for walk away scenarios and have been privileged to join in the search for some of Oahus missing. I have searched both with OSAR and privately. This past October, I received notice that a Mililani man with Dementia had gone missing from his home, and that his family was desperately seeking any assistance they could get in searching for him. This mans name is William Burr. It was 8 days past when I was made aware of Williams disappearance. The most crucial time to search is the first four hours of someone going missing. Every hour that passes drops the probability of finding them alive significantly.

I was able to reach out to Williams family and despite the immense odds against us being able to help that late in the timeframe, they met with me and my canine at the place William was last seen immediately. Using Williams worn shirt, my canine and I worked for 2+hours every day, for 6 days straight in bits and pieces. She followed whatever scent she could find until we unfortunately lost his trail completely. On our searches we handed out fliers and spoke to local residents and frequenters of the area. It was shocking to see first hand, that despite William Burr being on crime stoppers, most of the people I spoke to had no knowledge that someone was missing at all.

Search for a person in itself is an emergency, and quick and decisive reaction time is key. The 24 hours or so that passed between William going missing and the information being made public lost any "unknowing witnesses" we may have had in helping to find him. The lack of resources available to search for William from the time he walked away until the time he was located is heartbreaking. There was enough scent activity shown by my canine in that area for me to say this. If a canine team had been deployed immediately, and even better, in conjunction with ground search teams, there is a good chance that the outcome of Williams search may have been very different. The fact that there is nothing in place in Hawaii to at least give our Kupuna and their families the best chance of coming home is unacceptable.

We in Hawaii as a whole are almost immune to seeing someone walking in a daze down the middle of the road. It seems it is common practice to turn away from someone muttering to themselves and acting strangely, when another look and a few seconds of attention could easily alert us to the fact that something about that situation isnt right. We NEED the Silver Alert in Hawaii. We need it to make us aware as a community. To reset our viewpoint when our daily lives program us to walk past and not take notice of the old woman or man walking alone and seeming out of place. We need it to set up deployable action based resources so that these families arent left to plead for help and search alone. We need to stop depending on luck and be proactive in protecting our Kupuna and other endangered adults. On behalf of myself, and Oahu Search and Rescue We strongly request that HB1774 be passed.

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. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Rielle C. Rasmussen

Honolulu, Hawaii

rrasmussen753@gmail.com

808-347-1013

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:01:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Headrick	Autism Speaks	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas and Committee Members:

I represent the nonprofit organization Autism Speaks in several western states, as well as leading a small team of state government affairs professionals who work in states around the nation. Autism Speaks is dedicated to creating an inclusive world for all individuals with autism throughout their lifespan. We do this through advocacy, services, supports, research and innovation, and advances in care for autistic individuals and their families.

We strongly support HB1774 and commend Representative Chun and all co-introducers for this important legislation. Many autistic individuals - adults and children - have a tendency to wander or "elope," and some have a fascination with bodies of water. This unfortunately has led to many drowning and other deaths as well as trauma and injury in other cases. Alert systems being inclusive of those with autism and other developmental and intellectual disabilities can be a very helpful part of an infrastructure to save and protect lives. First responder trainings about autism and related conditions can as well.

We urge your support and thank you for your attention to this testimony.

Kelly Headrick

Senior Director, State Government Affairs and Grassroots Advocacy, Autism Speaks



February 6, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB1774 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: February 7, 2024, 2:00 PM

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 1774 as the bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. HPHA strongly supports HB 1774 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

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:23:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis	Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1774 HD1 relating to missing persons. This bill seeks to establish a silver alert program to help locate missing persons who are sixty-five of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

The Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA) represents providers across the state who provide services for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. Individuals with autism engage in wandering/elopement, often going toward water, placing them at higher risk of accidental death. Hawai'i is one of very few states that does not have a formalized silver alert system and it's time we change this.

We kindly request the committee pass this bill to help protect our community.



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 Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: HB 1774 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies **in support** of HB 1774, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement. A [2021 Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism report](#) found that nearly one in five people in the State of Hawai‘i is 65 or older. As this population continues to grow and age, the need for support services and programs such as the proposed silver alert becomes increasingly important. This program would also support the cognitively impaired and developmentally disabled.

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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1774 HD1: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

TO: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: Friday, 2/7/24; 2:00 PM; CR 325 and Videoconference

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members, Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 1774 HD1**, which establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is one of the few states in the US that does not have a formalized silver alert program. Kupuna in Hawai'i are rapidly increasing. More kupuna with dementia and Alzheimer's disease can result in more behaviors that put these vulnerable people at great risk. This can bring trauma and anxiety both to the individual and families who care for these increasingly frail and vulnerable elders. **Six in ten people with dementia will wander off at some point.** They may not know their name or address and especially who their caregiver is.

A silver alert program would help to identify very vulnerable missing people who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. It would help to provide a safe return of these lost individuals to their families and caregivers. What a relief for families to have a silver alert program to contact when they cannot locate their missing loved ones.

Take action now! Please help protect our vulnerable kupuna, and others who are cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled, by passing this bill.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.





February 6, 2024

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 2:00 PM. State Capitol, Conf. Room 325 or via Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1774 HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), we urge your **SUPPORT for House Bill 1774 HD1**, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS. This bill supports a critical priority for the epilepsy community – safety and continuity of care in the event of a seizure. This bill seeks to establish a Silver Alert Program in Hawaii. This critical initiative aims to assist in the rapid location and safeguarding of individuals aged sixty-five or older who may be cognitively impaired, developmentally disabled, including someone who suffers from seizures or seizure disorders.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy throughout Hawaii. Collectively, we foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition characterized by seizures, which are sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain, that affects a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy, and approximately 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure, at some point in their lifetime.

The establishment of a Silver Alert Program is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of a vulnerable segment of our population. Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy are common nervous system diseases in older adults, and their incidence rates tend to increase with age. As our society continues to age, the likelihood of encountering seniors facing cognitive impairment or developmental disabilities increases.

The Silver Alert Program, modeled after the successful AMBER Alert system for missing children, will provide an invaluable tool for law enforcement agencies to quickly disseminate information about missing seniors to the public. This rapid response can significantly increase the chances of locating the missing person before they face harm or danger.

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, we humbly urge your **SUPPORT for House Bill 1774 HD1**.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Mamanoff".

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at [epilepsy.com/advocacy](https://www.epilepsy.com/advocacy).**



Naomi Manuel
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at epilepsy.com/advocacy.**



February 7, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: HB 1774 HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1774 HD1, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that there were 29,000 older adults (65 years and older) living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i in 2020 with a projected 35,000 in that demographic by 2025. We appreciate the efforts of the legislature to help support not only our Kupuna, but their families and caregivers as well. Strengthening the health and well-being of Hawaii is our shared priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: HB1774 HD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB1774 HD1**, which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Aside from economic leadership, The Chamber also focuses on “quality of life” issues that impact our members, and their employees and families. 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, individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, placing them in precarious situations, escalating the need for quality caregiving. Based on feedback from our members, the lack of attention to the industry of Care is a contributing factor to workforce unavailability, which in turn affects and inhibits business growth.

The Chamber emphasizes Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. The Chamber supports this measure and would recognize its implementation as further upgrade to our national standing in general and as 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.



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Na'au Healing Center

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John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

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

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

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/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce
Development

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Support for HB1774 HD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HB1774 HD1**, which would establish a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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.

We support policies that help to ensure the safety of all people. Even when caregivers do everything possible, the unexpected happens, 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 our communities. And thank this committee for this opportunity to

submit supportive testimony for HB1774 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 set against a light blue rectangular background.

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>



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 Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2024

H.B. 1774, H.D. 1 — RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B.1774, H.D. 1, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

It is imperative that we look-out for the safety and wellbeing of our kupuna and if they go missing it is critical that they be found as soon as possible. Implementing a silver alert program provides law enforcement with better tools to locate and rescue our kupuna. Community awareness and involvement can aid law enforcement by providing critical and lightning-fast information on the whereabouts of a kupuna, which can be extremely beneficial in the unfortunate event that they go missing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 1774, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:43:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Calvin Hara, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1774 HD1. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

In my thirty years of senior care services career, I have seen and heard of situations where a loved one with cognitive decline is missing due to wandering. The agony of knowing a loved one is missing is extremely difficult.

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 request that HB 1774 HD1 be passed.

Sincerely,

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii

cmhara@comcast.net

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 8:04:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774 HD1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, 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 1774 HD1. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My father lived with some form of dementia that was never accurately diagnosed for 10-15 years before he passed away in 2016. He lived with his care-giver wife who did her best to care for him on her own. In the early stages of his disease he would walk his neighborhood, sometimes coming home and saying that he saw Ben Rothlisberger, the then quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She knew this wasn’t true but humored him. Eventually he stopped going on those walks alone and I know he wouldn’t have been able to make his way back home if he had. Silver Alerts could be a very helpful tool for care givers if their loved one does walk away.

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 request that HB 1774 HD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose
808-264-2663
Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
HEARING: **HB1774 HD1**

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2024
TIME: 2:00 PM

Bill No: **HB1774 HD1**

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

I urge the committee to approve HB1774 HD1 which seeks to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Projections have indicated that the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000 within the State of Hawaii.

Unfortunately, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative disease and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms. There might be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. Six in ten individuals 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. Thus, the importance of HB1744 HD1 cannot be stressed enough to increase the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

HB1774 HD1 intends to establish a silver alert program akin to other states that have implemented such a program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older. It is important to note that Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Yet, we have one of the largest senior populations per capita in the nation.

Local relevance toward establishing a silver alert in Hawaii can be found on the neighboring island of Hawaii, where a woman aged 65 located in Kailua-Kona went missing in the Old Airport area. The woman in question has been missing since 11/20/2023. The vastness of the Big Island geography adds to the complexity to any searches being conducted. It can be inferred that if there were a coordinated system such as the silver alert, missing seniors have the possibility of being found more quickly and safely.

In summation, I am in support of HB1774 HD1 and request that this bill pass out of this committee and that all changes to this bill should be in keeping with the introducer's intent. The passage of this bill will increase the safety of all seniors here in Hawaii.

Thank you for reading and allowing me to submit my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

Chair Emeritus,
Former Chair Neighborhood Board No. 15
Speaking in my personal capacity,

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:59:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Paul Greenwood. I am a former career prosecutor with the San Diego District Attorney's office where I led our Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prosecution Unit for 22 years. I am now acting as a consultant for various elder and kupuna friendly initiatives around the nation. I am in support of HB 1774. I have been aware of unfortunately too many situations where victims with various forms of dementia have wandered away from either their home or a long term care community; and as a result have either perished in heat or cold, or have been struck by a vehicle causing death or serious bodily injury. I believe that many of these incidents could have been prevented through a Silver Alert system.

I also see an additional benefit from having such a system in place in Hawaii. This initiative could lead to much needed training for local law enforcement on how to deal with persons with various cognitive impairments including Alzheimer's. Right now I am working with individual agencies in Hawaii to bring training for law enforcement in the form of EAGLE - Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement.

I urge bi-partisan support for this bill. The underlying motivation for this bill is to bring another level of protection for those who need it most.

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:59:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Davenport	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on HB1774 HD1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen Davenport and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

As our population of Hawaii continues to age, this bill becomes even more important. One of my neighbors had an elderly husband/father who wandered off and never returned. Despite numerous searches of which I participated in, he could not be located. It wasn't until almost 2 years later (?) that his body was found by searchers.

In addition to this experience, I had another elderly neighbor who lived two doors away from me. Our families were very close. The older gentleman suffered from PTSD and dementia. He frequently wandered off, leaving his wife worried sick about him. I recall one day seeing a post on social media that someone had taken in an elderly gentleman who was lost, tired, and thirsty. I recognized him as my neighbor and called his wife who had been frantically trying to find him. He has since passed, but I wish to respectfully remind this committee that these are not nameless, faceless individuals. They are people who have served our communities over the years—Roy was a military veteran and retired firefighter who dedicated his life to others. This bill will ensure that he and others like him will be given the immediate service they deserve should they become lost.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that HB 1774 HD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Kathleen Davenport
Kapolei, Hawaii
808-372-0065

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM

RE: [HB](#) RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
[1774,](#)
[HD1](#)

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Dorset and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can be disoriented, even in familiar places and 6-10 people with dementia will wander at some point. As the disease progresses individuals with dementia will forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. They may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. A Silver Alert is activated when an elderly, developmentally, or cognitively impaired person has gone missing and is determined to be at risk. Silver Alerts provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of at-risk persons Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2503 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Linda Dorset

Wailuku, Maui

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:28:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Seabaugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Seabaugh. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1774 HD1. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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 request that HB 1774 HD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Brian Seabaugh

Kailua, HI

brianseabaugh@gmail.com

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:01:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife are strong supporters of HB 1774. In the past I have spent time searching for an elderly friend's husband who had wandered away from their home and was missing. It was a scary experience and fortunately our friend's husband was located successfully. I can only imagine the fear and concern my friend experienced while her husband was in the wind. Sadly, Hawai'i is one of just a few States that does not have a formalized Silver Alert. We request that HB 1774 be supported. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1774.

Dan Gardner

Honolulu, Hi

daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:40:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brandvold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

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

My name is Ron Brandvold (retired) and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1774, which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My father-in-law is stricken with Alzheimer’s disease and the toll on his life, and that of his family, is profound.

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.

Hawai'i is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I respectfully request that HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 9:43:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1774 to protect our seniors.

I found a lost senior with dementia late at night wandering around downtown late at night. I called 911 as the person had clear signs of dementia, didn't know where he was or where he lived at, and was out of place. It was only when police arrived that I found out he was reported missing 6 hours prior.

If I hadn't taken the initiative to call 911, which most people wouldn't do, he would've remained lost as there was no announcement that he was missing. My grandparents suffered from dementia and I would want this system in place if they were lost.

Please support HB1774.

Todd Yukutake

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HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 11:03:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph burr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the brother of a recently deceased senior citizen of O'ahu, I strongly support this bill and strongly urge the legislative bodies of Hawaii along with law enforcement agencies of Hawaii to pass and enact this legislation in a most timely fashion.

As the Hawaiian population continues to age, the probability of more seniors "wandering" and becoming lost increases the need for legislation and actions contained in this bill and parallel bills relative to this subject.

I must believe, that had there been a silver alert type program in effect at the time of my brother's wandering, he would be with us today.

In my home state of Ohio, there is such a process and with the process, there are many eyes on the alert looking for the missing persons with the message being conveyed by state, regional and local law enforcement as well as electronic and print media. In addition social media becomes involved and as a result you have more "eyes" looking for the lost individuals resulting in more seniors being reunited with thier families.

I implore the State of Hawaii to enact this legislation for the sake of thier ageing population and thier family members.