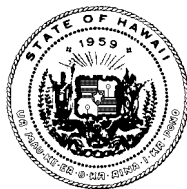


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

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'ŌKELE

February 24, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1774 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Hearing: February 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, 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 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000.
(HD2)

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.

The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs further amended the measure by:

- (1) Lowering the age for which a silver alert may be issued to sixty years old;

- (2) Clarifying the definition of "developmentally disabled"; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS appreciates the HD2 definition of "developmentally disabled," which appears to be the same as the definition provided in section 333E-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. DHS further 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 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.



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

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

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

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(808) 586-0185

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1774 HD2
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:** Appropriates funds. Declares the general fund expenditure ceiling is
- 5 exceeded.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law
- 7 Enforcement to alert the public and help locate missing elderly individuals or persons with
- 8 cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities. By 2025, the number of people living with
- 9 Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i is expected to rise to 35,000. A person with dementia may not

- 1 remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six
- 2 in ten people with dementia will wander at some point.
- 3 Establishing a silver alert program that can quickly alert the public about the missing person is
- 4 critical to find and help vulnerable individuals with Alzheimer’s and/or dementia and individuals
- 5 with cognitive impairments and developmental disabilities.
- 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 Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1774 HD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1774 HD1**, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000.

The council supports the inclusion of committee amendments of (1) Lowering the age for which a silver alert may be issued to sixty years old; and (2) Clarifying the definition of "developmentally disabled" in HB1774 HD1.

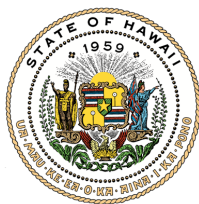
Silver Alerts, such as those activated under HB1774 HD1, are vital tools in ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities who may go missing. These alerts provide immediate information to the public, facilitating swift action to locate and safeguard at-risk persons. 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

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 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** House Bill 1774 House Draft 2.

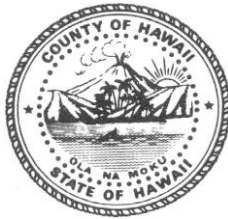
This bill establishes a Silver Alert program within the DLE to give the community a critical tool to help locate and protect missing kupuna and those who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. We currently have the Amber Alert program to serve the same function for endangered children 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.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

STEPHEN L. FRYE
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 1774 HD2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308
And Via Video Conference

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance, The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of the passage of House Bill No. 1774 HD2.

This bill was drafted with the intent to establish a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled and appropriates funding for said program.

Implementing a silver alert program is necessary and will save lives. Based on our research, Hawai'i is one of a few states that does not have an official silver alert program. We have all heard the tragic stories of family members who have lost loved ones. Lives that may have not been lost if information had been widely disseminated in a timely fashion. The goal of a silver alert program is to quickly disseminate information about endangered persons to law enforcement and members of the general public by utilizing various broadcast platforms, mobile devices, and media outlets. We recognize the effectiveness of similar programs, such as the AMBER alert system, in communicating emergency alerts.

The Department of Law Enforcement ("DLE") is a state agency with a presence on all islands. DLE have the staff, personnel, resources, and relationships with the individual counties to adequately manage and work collaboratively with local law enforcement, city and county agencies/departments, community stakeholders, and others to keep our kupuna safe.

For the foregoing reasons, the, County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of House Bill No. 1774 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 8:41:59 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.



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024
10:00 a. m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308 and via videoconference

Re: HB 1774 HD 2 Relating to Missing Persons

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

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the 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 Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB 1774 HD 2, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty 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 2, 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@arp.org



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 HB1774, HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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** HB1774, HD2, 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

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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

1.866.454.4166

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. 1774, HOUSE DRAFT 2, 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 2, 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 a missing person if the missing person is either sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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.

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 2
Monday, February 26, 2024; 10:00 a.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
*Obama Foundation
Kokua Kalih Valley*

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

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

Travis Kikuchi
*Senior Vice President
Central Pacific Bank*

Kai Ohashi
*Financial Advisor
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Michael Robinson
*Vice President
Hawaii Pacific Health*

Kimberly Soares
*Vice President
Atlas Insurance*

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

Gordon Takaki
*Past President
Hawaii Island Chamber of
Commerce*

Cary Tanaka
*Past President
Island Insurance
Companies*

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. 1774 HOUSE DRAFT 2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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. 1774 House Draft 2 and offer amendments for your consideration.**

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

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease. 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 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 an age requirement, cognitive impairment, or developmental disability such as autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or epilepsy.

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

- (1) During the interim before the 2024 Regular Session, discussions were had with the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and identify costs associated with this bill. An amount was recommended which is reflected in the original version, House Bill No. 1774. **We ask for your consideration to appropriate \$250,000 to plan and implement the silver alert in Hawaii.**

- (2) **This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.**

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. **With these amendments, we ask you to pass House Bill No. 1774 House Draft 2.**

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: Strong Support for H.B. 1774 HD2 Relating to Missing Persons

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 strongly supports H.B. 1774 HD2 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 HD2.



February 24, 2024

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

Re: SUPPORT of HB1774 HD2 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: February 26, 2024, 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 1774 HD2 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 HD2 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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1774 HD2: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: **Monday, 2/26/24; 10:00 am; CR 325 and Videoconference**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 1774 HD2**, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement 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 Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii 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 Hawaii.

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





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 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.



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: HB1774 HD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB1774 HD2**, 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. The Chamber also appreciates the improvements made to the previous version of the measure, including lowering the age for issuing a silver alert to sixty years old and providing clearer definition for "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.



February 25, 2024

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance (FIN)

Monday, February 26, 2024, 10:00 AM. State Capitol, Conf. Room 308 or via Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1774 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), we urge your **SUPPORT for House Bill 1774 HD2**, 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 HD2**.

Mahalo nui loa,

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).**



Kristina Hulama

Kristina Hulama
Program Coordinator
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.**



House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Monday, February 26, 2024
10:00 am
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Support for HB 1774

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1774 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 Hawaii 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. Hawaii 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.

Mahalo,

Kristen Koba-Burdt, BCBA, LBA
Legislative Chair
Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis



Testimony before the House

Committee on Finance

HB 1774, HD 2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Monday, February 26, 2024

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 1774, HD 2. The purpose of this bill is to establish a silver alert program modeled after the AMBER Alert Program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing neurological diseases, with someone in the U.S. diagnosed every six minutes. In Hawaii, approximately 8,000 people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's and that number is 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 and it is vitally important that we have a system in place to keep them safe. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized system in place. We strongly urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

The Hawaii Parkinson Association is a local all-volunteer nonprofit organization and was established in 1996. The Association's primary mission is to positively impact the lives of those affected by Parkinson's Disease through support, education, programs, and other services.



February 26, 2024

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

HB 1774 HD2- RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** HB 1774, which establishes a silver alert program to assist in locating missing persons, especially kūpuna, who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

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 a helpful tool in locating a kūpuna who may have wandered from their home or family due to dementia or Alzheimer's. Many of our members have family who are directly affected by dementia and have experienced cases of wandering. We also note that the State of Hawai'i is one of few jurisdictions that do not have a formal system in place designed to help locate lost loved ones.

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. 1774, H.D. 2 — 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. 2, 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. 2.

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 HB1774 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

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 HB1774 HD2. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age and older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Many of our members have been touched by this heart-breaking disease, myself included. In 2015, my family began the difficult journey to care for a loved one diagnosed with dementia. We had little understanding of the disease itself, the legal and financial burdens, the mental, physical and emotional toll on us as caregivers. We are lucky to have five siblings to care for one family member 24 hours a day.

We have seen reports on elderly folks wandering off and going missing - never to be found. The pain, grief and guilt family members must endure in an already stressful situation is unimaginable.

The elderly, cognitively impaired and developmentally disabled are among the most vulnerable in our community. They need this program. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Please pass HB 1774.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Joli Tokusato



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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

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Treasurer
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Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Debbie Erskine
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Health Partners

May Okihiko, MD, MS
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: February 25, 2024

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

Re: Support for HB1774 HD2 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HB1774 HD2**, 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 HD2. 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-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:05:21 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. 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 10:00 am

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Rick Tabor and I am retired from 47 years in mental health, active on several kupuna boards, councils and task forces. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774. 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 recently deceased dementia diagnosed mother was known to wander. She once went out the front door in 50 below zero North Dakota weather. She was found unconscious at 7:00am, by a neighbor who was on his way to school. She was wearing her night gown. Somehow she managed to survive. Granted, this is not a Hawaii story, but it does illustrate a common issue with dementia affected individuals. They wander, get lost and life threatening situations can occur. For us who have loved ones that wander, an 'Amber-like' alert system would be very helpful. The peace of mind would be well worth the effort.

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 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rick Tabor

Honolulu, HI

rtabor12@twc.com

HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:20:28 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

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774
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 1774**. 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 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Peggy Kalalau
Kea'au, Hawai'i

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:50:19 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 Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife Deborah are strong supporters of HB 1774 HD2. 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 we were were rrelieved when 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 your continued support for HB 1774 HB2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Dan Gardner

Honolulu, Hi



February 26, 2024

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

Re: **HB 1774 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**
Testimony in Strong Support

I strongly support HB 1774 HD2.


Hawaii needs a silver alert program that will notify the public of missing Kupuna who suffer from a cognitive impairment like Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or a developmental disability. My family has tragically suffered from Alzheimer's disease. My father and 3 uncles died from Alzheimer's. Families like mine were frightened and had the nagging fear that their loved one might wander away from family when at home or somewhere in the community. I feel that a silver alert program could be a life saver and a means to quickly locate missing individuals that suffer from cognitive impairment or a developmental disability.

The nearly 100,000 Hawaii residents and unpaid family caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease is reason enough to pass this bill. Six in ten people with dementia will wander and may be unable to remember their name or home address. When individuals with other forms of dementia, cognitive impairment and developmental disability are taken into consideration the need for a silver alert program is even more urgent and compelling.

A silver alert program may benefit your family, friends, or neighbors in the future. I urge you to pass this bill, as it just makes common sense.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steven Tam
Honolulu, Hawaii



HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:25:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Arde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Patricia P. Arde and **I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1774** which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons 60 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My beloved Dad, U.S. Army Retired SGM Francisco I. Pangelinan, went missing from Home Depot in Kapolei, Oahu, Hawaii at approximately 3:30 p.m. on May 15, 2023. Dad was 85 years old at the time of his disappearance and is now 86. Although not officially diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, Dad was starting to exhibit signs of memory loss, most often while driving and not remembering street names and forgetting once familiar directions.

On the day that Dad went missing, he had shopped at Kapolei Costco in the morning, returned home for a couple of hours, and then returned to Kapolei for a stop at Home Depot to look for light bulbs. He told my Mom that he would be back shortly. A couple of hours later, my Mom called me at work to say that she was worried that Dad wasn’t home yet, as he hadn’t eaten much that day and had forgotten his cell phone. On that day, Dad knew who his family members were and knew our names. He could hold a normal conversation with anyone and most people would assume that he was perfectly fine. I called my husband at work and asked him to go find Dad, as we had placed an Apple tracker in his car and in his wallet in case he ever got lost. My husband tracked Dad to Home Depot and immediately drove to the store and found his car in the parking lot, but no sign of Dad anywhere in the store. For some reason, the tracker that we placed in Dad’s wallet with his permission on Mother’s Day, the day prior to his disappearance, was removed from his wallet and found in his locked car. We have no idea why Dad removed his wallet tracker and, unfortunately, we may never know. Dad had simply vanished and now, without the ability to track him, we had no way to find him.

It took days for Home Depot to review its surveillance footage of the store’s parking lot, and even more days passed until our HPD detective was able to review the footage. So much valuable time was lost in the first few days that Dad went missing that we really had no chance of finding him. Home Depot surveillance footage showed Dad trying to locate his car in the store’s parking lot. He had parked on the lumberyard side of the store, but had exited on the garden side and may have forgotten this fact. The footage shows Dad frantically looking for his car and, not being able to find it, crossing the street to Costco. Costco surveillance footage showed Dad walking through its parking lot and then crossing the street to the Honolulu Star

Advertiser building. Thereafter, there is no more footage of Dad anywhere. All of the stores and businesses in the vicinity of Home Depot, Costco, Kapolei Commons and the Star Advertiser did not capture Dad on any of their cameras. HPD informed me that traffic cameras in the vicinity were also not working. We have been at a dead end since Day 1 and have had no clues whatsoever to help find Dad.

Perhaps not finding his car in the store parking lot triggered something in Dad's brain. We don't know what he was thinking and why he didn't stop to ask anyone for help. His credit cards have not been accessed. Did someone bad pick up Dad and try to rob him or worse? Did Dad suffer an injury once it turned dark and could be somewhere that we haven't looked? Did Dad try to walk home and get lost? Did Dad wander into a homeless encampment? Did Dad lose his memory and forget that he has a family? Did Dad lose his wallet and no longer know his identity? There are so many questions that we have about the afternoon that Dad went missing and they have so far gone unanswered.

Over the last nine months, there have been some sightings of Dad and we have followed up on all of them, but nothing has panned out. We continue to search for Dad on our own, alerting and keeping as many people as possible posted of his current status via social media, as Hawaii still has no silver alert system in place. I firmly believe that if such an alert existed and had gone statewide as soon as Dad went missing, we might have had a chance to find him.

Our family is crushed by Dad's disappearance and it is difficult for us to get through each day not knowing what happened to him or where he might be. We want to believe that he is still out there somewhere and that we will find him and bring him home soon. We miss Dad every minute of every day and our hearts ache to see him again. We continue to pray that we will find Dad very soon.

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 10 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 program. I humbly implore that HB 1774 be passed so that other families will not have to experience what my family is currently going through. Losing a beloved senior family member in this way is nothing short of devastating.

Thank you so much for your consideration and for allowing me to give testimony in this extremely crucial matter.

Patricia P. Arde
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

████████████████████
██████████████████

HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:12:33 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 1774**. 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.


In my thirty years career in senior care, I have seen the rise in kupuna with dementia from the initial diagnosis to later stages. There have been countless occasions where family members of a person with cognitive impairment have wandered or become lost in the community. The agony of knowing your loved is missing is tremendous.

The number of people in Hawaii with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia continue to rise annually. As such, we will continue to hear, and likely more so, of missing seniors and adults. Our state needs a concerted effort, as provided for in this bill, to assist vulnerable community members. Many other states already recognize the need and have a Silver Alert program. Let's move forward and assist Hawaii's people with the passing of HB 1774.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

RE: HB1774 HD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Linda Dorset and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1774 HD2. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that HB1774 HD2 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Linda Dorset

Wailuku, Maui

HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:41:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph burr	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly support both hb 1773 AND hb 1774 relative to law enforcement training in the recognition and handling of those persons they come in contact with that may be suffering the effects of dementia. Additionally, I urge the training to include training to address and work with the family and friends of those persons with dementia as they too are suffering, albeit in a different manner and arena.

Additionally, it is imperative that a robust and functioning silver alert system be put in place to systematically and methodically organize and manage the search for those persons that have been diagnosed with dementia or symptoms of dementia and may be in a "wandering" state.

With a robust silver alert system, beyond a broadcast of a missing person, a functioning system will allow for more persons, both law enforcement and other public service employees as well as members of the community including media, both electronic and social to become actively involved in a search for the missing individual. The more persons that become aware, the more opportunity there is for the missing person to be located and removed to a safe and comforting environment.

As a person that has lost a brother suffering dementia in Hawaii, it is my opinion and perception that not enough is being done at a high or professional level to assist in the location and recovery of those persons suffering this horrible condition.

HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 2:40:35 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:

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 1774**. 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 grandmother-in-law has Alzheimer's disease. It is sad seeing your loved ones fading away, forgetting who their family is and where they are. Part of this awful disease is wandering. People with the disease can leave their homes and wander off. When I think about the fear those individuals experience once they are lost without knowing where they are and who to call, it breaks my heart. I believe that a silver alert system can help many of those individuals find their way back home to their loved ones. Hawai'i is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I want to ask that HB 1774 be passed. Lets protect our Kupuna.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor, Haiku, HI



HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:04:19 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:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

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:

My name is Nancy Rose, and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1774. 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 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 Roethlisberger, 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 would like to ask that HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii



HB-1774-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:38:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanue Sadowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 1774 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Yamashita, Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Nanue Sadowski. I am a student at James B. Castle Highschool in Windward on Oahu. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1774, the creation of a silver alert that helps for missing persons above the age of 60, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

When people grow older, their cognitive ability and many other skills deteriorate and leave the elderly vulnerable to become lost and not know their way back home and in turn become missing. That is the same with people who are already cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

That is why I believe that we should be making silver alerts/notifications that the elderly(and cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled) are missing due to them being less capable than average adults and some even less capable of children or toddlers. Personally, as my grandparents are aging, they are also losing their cognitive ability and sometimes I worry that they are not as safe as they used to be since they go out often. My grandpa is also missing both his arms so if they were to not function when he is lost, he would be in danger. Silver alerts would help find him before his arms were to stop working and it would save many lives aswell since many older people are in danger of going missing.

We need your help, Mahalo.

Nanue Sadowski, Windward, Oahu