



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S.BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2305 SD2
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
Members of the Human Services Committee

March 12th, 2024, at 9:15 a.m. Room Number: 329

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR), housed in the Office of the Governor, **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2305 SD2, Relating to Missing Persons so long as it does not adverse impact priorities identified in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request for FY2025.

Established through Act 291 (Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022), the overall aim of the OWR is to make Hawai'i a trauma-informed state. One of our priority areas focuses on breaking down barriers that impact the physical, social, and emotional well-being of Hawai'i's people. We explore avenues to increase access and availability to mental, behavioral, social, and emotional health services and support.

Alzheimer's disease affects 29,000 people aged 65 and older in Hawai'i, making it a growing health crisis. Older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are at high risk of wandering, leading to harm, accidental death, and care partner stress¹. S.B. 2305 SD2 establishes a program that quickly broadcasts information state-wide, about missing persons who are sixty-five years or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled and determined to be at risk.

By passing this measure, the State would allow the Hawai'i community to better protect this vulnerable population collectively. We strongly believe that this measure not only addresses the well-being of kupuna themselves, but also addresses the caregivers' well-being who are under high stress when their loved ones go missing, by providing them an evidence-based tool with high-success rates in thirty-seven other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tia L.R. Hartsock".

Tia L R Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor

¹ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC WONDER online database: about underlying cause of death, 1999-2019. 2022. Accessed September 26, 2022. <https://wonder.cdc.gov>



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Marten and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2305 SD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2305 SD2**, 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. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Effective 1/1/2042. (SD2)

Silver Alerts, such as those activated under SB2305 SD2, 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 SB2305 SD2, 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 SB2305 SD2**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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

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

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(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 SB2305 SD2
RELATING TO DEMENTIA

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
REP. LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
REP. TEREZ AMATO, VICE-CHAIR

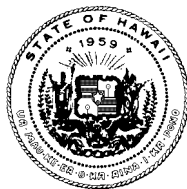
Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:15 A.M., Conference Room 329

- 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 provided that its enactment does
- 3 not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's executive budget.
- 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 locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years or older,
- 8 cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. 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 strongly supports the intent of this measure and defers to the
- 7 Department of Law Enforcement for implementation.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

March 10, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2305 SD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Hearing: March 12, 2024, 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent, 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 replace 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. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Effective 1/1/2042. (SD2)

The Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2042, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Committee on Ways and Means (SD2) further amended the measure by changing the appropriation to an unspecified sum to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

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 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 measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

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

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2305, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Before the House Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, March 12, 2024; 9:15 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Martin, Vice Chair Amato, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2305, Senate Draft 2 and requests the original appropriation amount of \$250,000.

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.

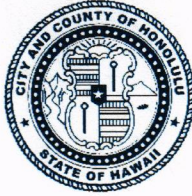
The DLE requests that the original appropriation amount of \$250,000 be included in this measure.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MAKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: www.honolulu.org

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEI'A



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MAKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MAKA'I

OUR REFERENCE AP-BT

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Marten and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons

I am Andre Peters, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons.

In 2005, the MAILE AMBER Alert program was established in Honolulu and, since then, we utilized it twice, most recently on February 13, 2024. The strict criteria placed on this program prevent misuse and the oversaturation of alerts. In 2022, along with the HPD's Missing Persons Detail, I began working on updating our practices to be consistent with national standards. Our procedures were severely outdated, and we were not utilizing the available resources and technology. We consulted with a former coordinator of the AMBER Alert program for the state of California and received valuable insight to ensure that the program would be successful and to review some of the pitfalls that we may encounter in the future.

There are approximately 11 different types of alerts that some states have adopted on top of the AMBER Alert. All of these alerts have significance within their specific communities, and passing this bill will allow other groups to advocate for the addition of another alert to the existing program. If these additional alerts are added, it will greatly diminish the importance of the core reason for the program, which is to locate and recover abducted children. The oversaturation of alerts may cause the public to be desensitized and turn off notifications on their personal electronic devices under the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system.

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
and Members

Page 2

March 12, 2024

On February 13, 2024, the HPD utilized all of the tools mentioned in this bill. The two children were located in less than ten minutes once the alert was activated. It has taken nearly two years to get to this point, however, the program still needs improvements. We have two full-time detectives assigned to the Missing Persons Detail and the recent activation of the MAILE AMBER Alert required no additional funds.

Statistically, the HPD has done an excellent job in locating individuals over the age of 65. Since 2020, the HPD had more than 100 cases per year with a closure rate of 99 percent. There were approximately 20 individuals who were found deceased before the missing person's report was made. Only one was found deceased after the report was made.

The HPD is successful in our current efforts to locate our keiki and kūpuna. The investigating agency should be the one to put out the alert because the information comes in quickly and time is of the essence. Sharing information with an outside agency will only delay the safe recovery efforts.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Andre Peters, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

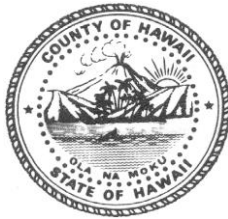
APPROVED:



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

STEPHEN L. FRYE
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KILAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908

74-675 KEALAKEHE PARKWAY
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

64-1067 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY, C-3
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743
PH: (808) 887-3017
FAX: (808) 887-3016

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **SENATE BILL NO. 2305 SD2**

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Lisa Martin, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 329
And Via Video Conference

Honorable Chair Martin, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee on Human Services, The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of the passage of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2.

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 Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 12, 2024; 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2305, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, 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** Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate 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:

- (1) 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;
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to establish the “Silver Alert” Program; and
- (3) Take effect on January 1, 2042.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2
Tuesday, March 12, 2024; 9:15 a.m.
Page 2

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.**

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.



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
The Honorable Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 2305 SD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2305 SD2, 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

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
Edward Jones*

Michael Robinson
*Vice President
Hawaii Pacific Health*

Kimberly Soares
*Vice President
Atlas Insurance*

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

Gordon Takaki
*Past President
Hawaii Island Chamber of
Commerce*

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 Human Services

Tuesday, March 12, 2024; 9:15 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, and Videoconference

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2305, SENATE DRAFT NO. 2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Lisa Marten, Vice Chair Terez Amato, 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 SB2305 SD2.**

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 January 1, 2042.

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.

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 SB2305 SD2.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact me at 808.451.3410 or rkshimabuku@alz.org.



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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2305 SD2: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

TO: House Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: **Tuesday, 3/12/24; 9:15 AM; via Videoconference or CR 329**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 2305 SD2**, 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. Makes an appropriation. 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 missing persons 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 with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities by passing this bill.

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



SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 7:10:51 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

At the House Hearing on the companion measure I referenced a personal experience where I saw what happened when a person with dementia wandered off and I saw the lack of coordination between the Police Department and others who were trying to find this person. It is clear to me that a mechanism such as a Silver Alert is needed and would improve our efforts to keep such people safe.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

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

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:15 AM
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2305, SD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, 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** SB2305, SD2, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

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

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:15 a. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 329 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2305 SD 2 Relating to Missing Persons

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

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 SB 2305 SD 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; and makes an appropriation.

The silver alert program can save lives.

We urge you to support the silver alert program and SB 2305 SD 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@aarp.org



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
House of Representatives
Committee on Human Services

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 12, 2024

S.B. 2305, S.D. 2 — RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2305, S.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 S.B. 2305, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



LOCAL 142

March 11, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Human Services

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Tuesday, March 12, 2024; 9:15 a.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SB2305 SD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

I am writing on behalf of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142, representing 16,000 workers across the islands, to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2305, which aims to establish a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i faces a growing challenge with the aging population, particularly in the prevalence of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. According to a 2023 report published by the Alzheimer's Association, by next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i, is expected to rise to over 35,000, a more than 20% increase from 2020.

As many have already testified, kūpuna and people with Alzheimer's are vulnerable to wandering and becoming lost and disoriented. This can also lead to challenging behaviors when approached by others. Establishing a silver alert system rightfully provides resources to set up a system with trained professionals to properly and compassionately respond to such situations. This issue is personal to the ILWU, as many of our members find themselves having to care for parents or relatives with Alzheimer's and dementia. It is a difficult and in many ways heartbreaking experience. We stand in full support of SB2305, establishing a silver alert system to protect our loved ones and support those who care for them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Christian West
President, ILWU Local 142



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Titiimaeta Ta'ase, JD
Secretary

State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

Carissa Holley, MEd

Treasurer
Hale Makua Health Services

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 Okihiro, 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: March 8, 2024

To: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Re: Support for SB2305 SD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:15 AM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of SB2305 SD1**, 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 loved ones. 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 SB2305 SD1. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peggy Mierzwa'.

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>



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

The State Legislature
House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Conference Room 329, 9:15 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for S.B. 2305 SD2 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP Supports S.B. 2305 SD2 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 support.



March 12, 2024

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

SB 2305 SD2 - RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 2305 SD2, 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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15am

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 Donna Shimizu and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association living on the Big Island. ***I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2.*** 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 siblings and I witnessed my mother slowly drift away due to dementia. From an active, vibrant person she transformed into a mom who didn't recognize her children and could not function normally. I remember early in her diagnosis, being with her crossing a street and she stopped dead center. I proceeded not realizing she was standing in the path of an on-coming huge truck. When I realized what was happening and yelled at her to proceed, she simply waved her arms around taunting the truck. Even with instructions to stay within her property boundaries, neighbors often told us she was seen walking blocks away from her home.

These are instances prior to her being housed at a care facility. We were lucky that after each alarming event, she was found safe. But what if?

I read with sadness about our missing kupuna. People in need of medication or needing immediate care. The heartache, chaos, and fear families must feel. How frightening for families and more so, the individual lost.

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 SB2305 SD2 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Donna Shimizu (808) 339-0160
Hilo, Hawaii



March 11, 2024

House Committee on Human Services
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
Representatives Della Au Belatti, Greggor Ilagan, Bertrand Kobayashi, Scott Y. Nishimoto, Jenna Takenouchi, and Diamond Garcia, Committee Members

RE: SB2305 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this letter in support of SB2305 on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii. Easterseals Hawaii served over 2,300 Hawaii community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2023. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with I/DD can choose their own path.

SB2305 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. Many persons with I/DD are prone to elopement which can lead them to become separated from their friends and family. Furthermore, many such individuals are unable to communicate their needs and basic information to strangers in a distressing situation such as separation. Some do not use any spoken communication. These factors render the I/DD community especially at risk of adverse outcomes if they become missing persons. A silver alert program will significantly increase the chances of individuals with I/DD returning home.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Easterseals Hawaii supports SB2305 and respectfully requests your “aye” vote.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this letter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rachel Liebert Lewis".

Rachel Liebert Lewis
Legislative Researcher and Policy Architect
Easterseals Hawaii

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:35:12 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin K. Holu	Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Kevin Holu and I am the President/Principal Officer of Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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 SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Kevin Holu

HTAWL 996



Testimony before the House
Committee on Human Services

SB 2305, SD 2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

By Glen Higa, President
Hawaii Parkinson Association

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

The Hawaii Parkinson Association strongly supports SB 2305, SD 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 65 years of age or older 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 to enable us to begin to put one together.

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.



March 12, 2024

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services (FIN)

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:15 AM. State Capitol, Conf. Room 329 or via Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2305 SD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), we urge your **SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2305 SD2**, 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 Senate Bill 2305 SD2**.

Mahalo nui loa,



Kristina Hulama

Kristina Hulama, LSW
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.**



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 Human Services
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:15 AM, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

RE: SB 2305 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Elefante and Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies **in support** of SB 2305, 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 to increase services and programs such as the proposed silver alert becomes increasingly important.

The safety of kūpuna, those with cognitive impairments, and the developmentally disabled are often left to their immediate family members. [Publication from the National Institutes of Health](#) regarding familial caregiving notes that “accumulating caregiving demands and the costs of long-term services and supports (LTSS) can overwhelm and undermine other dimensions of one's life.” A silver alert program can directly save lives and can also provide a stronger sense of safety and connectedness for those who care for their family or community members.

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



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 12th, 2024 at 9:15AM
Conference Room 329**

RE: SB2305 SD2 Relating to Missing Persons

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports SB2305 SD2**, 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 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.



March 9, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD2 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: Tuesday, March 12th, 9:15 AM

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 SB 2305 SD2 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 SB 2305 SC2 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

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:03:19 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Tabor	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

My name is Rick Tabor, and I am a retired Mental Health Professional. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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.

Sadly, on February 7, 2024 my Mother passed away. Dementia was her struggle for several years. Wandering was one of her scary tendencies. Having a silver Alert System could have saved our loved ones a lot of anxiety. If you've ever experienced a lost loved Kupuna, you know what I'm saying.

By next year, the number of people diagnosed 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. Keep in mind, less than half living with dementia will be assessed and diagnosed. That means some will wander or get turned around, not knowing they have dementia (memory) issues. Point being, our Kupuna can wander and help before anxiousness sets in would be reassuring.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 SD2, be passed for peace of mind and goodwill to our kupuna as soon as possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rick Tabor

Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:19:25 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Joseph W. Burr and I along with my family strongly **SUPPORT SB 2305 SD 2** relating to missing persons, cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled persons..

My family recently lost a beloved family member, my brother, as a result of what can be possibly attributed to a lack of an effective seniors missing person program in Hawaii. It should be noted that Hawaii is one of only 11 states in the United States that does not have any type of program dedicated to missing or lost seniors.

My brother, diagnosed with dementia along with residual effects of Agent Orange from his two tours in South Vietnam, "wandered" from his home in Mililana on October 2, 2023 and unfortunately, his remains were recovered and released to our family on November 22, 2023. His remains were discovered within 10 miles of his home.

It is felt that a robust and strong seniors missing person alert system encompassing print and electronic media as well as social media coupled with signage on the interstate highway system would have possibly placed multiple sets of "eyes" on my brother and other persons in similar situations to return these senior citizens to thier homes, care facilities or other designated places of reunion.

I implore The State of Hawaii to, in a timely manner, implement and maintain a robust senior missing person alert system as statistics indicate that six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. It should be noted that as the senior population of Hawaii continues to grow, this problem, if not addressed in a timely manner, will continue to grow as well.

Respectfully sumitted,,

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 5:44:02 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Wyatt	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

My name is Kathy Wyatt, and I am the founder and President of Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i adult day care centers. I am in STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2305 SD3, a bill that establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disables.

I have been working in the long term care world for 25 years, and have seen how devastating it is when a senior wanders off and is never found. They are overlooked by folks they pass on the street, and they may get tired and lay down behind a building to sleep. A silver alert will make everyone more aware to look for signs that a person you see on the street is lost or confused, and that they need help.

As we all know, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease will increase to over 35,000. A person living with dementia may not be able to remember their name, their address or the name of their family members. They can become disoriented, even if they are in a familiar place. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point.

Hawai`i is one of the few states that do not have a formalized Silver Alert system. I request that SB2305 SD2 be passed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Wyatt

Waipahu, HI

808-292-4665

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 3:49:39 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. I am now a senior citizen and appreciate the provisions of this measure.

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 5:28:06 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith F. I hida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Lisa Marten chairman And Teresa Amato vice chairman

I am stating my support for SB 2305 regarding the Silver Alert to provide immediate response to persons 65 years and older, especially those with disabilities as Dementia or other physical Health problems.

**House of Representatives
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9:15 a.m.**

To: Committee Chair Lisa Marten, Representative
Re: SB 2305 SD 2, Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Lisa Marten, Vice-Chair Terez Amato, and Members of the Committees,

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

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

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 2305 SD 2** that seeks to establish a Silver Alert Program in Hawaii, much like thirty-seven other 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

In 2023, Florida marked the 15th anniversary of their Silver Alert program which was responsible for more than 300 recoveries of missing seniors.³

"The Silver Alert has been, and continues to be, an essential program that helps older adults with ADRD [Alzheimer's disease or related dementia] stay safe," said [Florida] Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom."⁴

"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

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

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

³ https://www.villages-news.com/2023/10/31/florida-silver-alerts-have-helped-recover-hundreds-of-missing-senior-citizens/#google_vignette

⁴ <https://elderaffairs.org/florida-celebrates-anniversary-of-silver-alert-program/>

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.”⁵

“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.”⁶

“Community-aided immediate search activities are often successful at finding missing individuals with dementia.”⁷

As our population ages, the prevalence of dementia will grow. The Silver Alert program and Silver Alert-like programs in thirty-seven other states and the District of Columbia have proven to be an effective and necessary tool in locating missing persons.

For the reasons cited above, I request that SB 2305 SB 2 be passed.

Mahalo!

⁵ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/06/hawaiis-population-is-aging-fast-the-impacts-will-be-significant/>

⁶ <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/silver-alert>

⁷ 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

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 8:51:50 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Ohad Amidor. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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 SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Amitabh Amidor

Haiku,HI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

TIME: 9:15am

RE: [SB 2305 SD2](#) RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD2. 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 SB2503 SD2 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui**

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Dolores Foley, and I am the President Of Change AGEnts Hawaii. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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 SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Dolores Foley
Kailua Oahu 96734

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 11:45:01 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Spence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Chuck Spence, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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 developed Alzheimer's and was admitted to an assisted living facility in Ohio. Despite the regular monitoring and locked facility, somehow, he was able to wander out on his own one

night. Thankfully, he was found shortly afterward wearing nothing but his undergarments and standing barefoot in snow surrounded by freezing weather. Had he not been found as quickly, he would have died a very harsh death and much earlier than necessary. Silver Alert is needed to protect our kupuna.

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 SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Chuck Spence

Haiku, HI

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 3:49:55 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Missy Saiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2.

Relating to Missing Persons

Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 9:15am

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

My name is Missy Saiki. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. The bill's objective is 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.

Here on Kauai I have witnessed a number of individuals with dementia wandering in our community - disoriented and confused. I am fearful for their safety and can see that there is a need to have a program in place to help find them if needed, as well as to protect them.

I was surprised to learn that Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I respectfully request that SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Missy Saiki

Kapaa, Hawaii

Kevin L. Johnson, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

**Hawai'i Legislature
House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday March 12, 2024, Conference Room 329, 9:15 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair

RE: Support for SB 2305 SD 2, Relating to Missing Persons

I would like to take this opportunity to express my **strong support of SB 2305 SD 2, Relating to Missing Persons.**

Six in ten people suffering from dementia will wander. This vulnerable population may not know their name and/or address, become disoriented and become anxious to the point hostility. They also are more vulnerable to victimization of those finding them to be easy prey.

A "Silver Alert" program, such as the one outlined in this bill, greatly decreases these folks' time "at large". It is a valuable tool for their safe return home.

As Hawai'i is one of the few states with out this essential program, your compassionate **support of SB 2305 SD 2**, is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Johnson

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:16:08 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Nancy Rose, and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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 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 request that SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 12:36:06 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Brian Seabaugh. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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 state in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Brian Seabaugh

Kailua, HI

March 12, 2024

To: Chair Lisa Marten, Vice Chair Terez Amato, and Members of the Committee
Re: **SB2305 SD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**
Testimony in Strong Support

I strongly support SB2305 SD2.

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

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Lori McCarney, and I am President of the Board of the Alzheimer's Association Hawaii Chapter. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. 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, Sanford Brown, died from Alzheimer's in 2016 after a nearly 10-year battle. He lived with me for several years during that time. As the disease progressed, there was a six-month period when he had it in his mind that he needed to take the trash out to the garbage can. We never knew when he might decide to do it, but most times we were nearby and able to keep an eye on him. But one time, he left without us knowing. Fortunately, it didn't take us long to realize he had left the house, so we were able to find him up the street.

If it had taken more time for us to realize he was gone, he probably would have been much harder to find. You see, he was very physically strong and fast and could cover a lot of ground.

That's why SB 2305 is so important. Quick, broad notification will save lives.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Lori McCarney

Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:00:48 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Rielle Rasmussen, and I am the canine handler for Oahu Search and Rescue. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate bill 2305. 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 weren't? 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 their immediate aid. 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 Oahu's 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 man's name is William Burr. It was 8 days past when I was made aware of Williams' disappearance. The most crucial time to search is within 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 timeline, they met with me and my canine immediately at the place William was last seen. Using Williams' worn t-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 crimestoppers, 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. If there had been an immediate response and appropriate resources deployed 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 isn't 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 notice 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 aren't left to plead for help and to 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 Senate Bill 2305 be passed.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Rielle C. Rasmussen

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 11:30:16 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Patricia P. Arde and **I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2305 SD2** which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 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 having forgotten 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 plus 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 program 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 hereby respectfully request that SB2305 SD2 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

patricia.arde77@gmail.com

808/689-1176

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:24:38 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2305 to protect our seniors. The funding allocated to this program will be well worth it in order to save lives and to avoid larger expenditures. Delaying notification of a missing persons will result in costly search and rescue operations later.

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 SB2305.

Todd Yukutake

toddykutake@gmail.com

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:33:09 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Fujikami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Dr.Gina Fujikami, and I am a Geriatrician here in Honolulu. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2305 SD2**. 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.

As a Geriatrician, I take care of many patients living with dementia. Wandering is one of the main concerns by their caregivers and families. Even though they do their best, a loved one suffering from dementia may not be able to make their own decisions and can leave the house

and get lost. It is heartbreaking when that happens for not only the patients but their families and communities.

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 SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Dr.Gina Fujikami

Honolulu, Hawaii (96821)

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 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 Calvin Hara and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2. The bill establishes a silver alert program for Hawaii's kupuna. In my thirty-year career in senior care, I have seen many situations of missing seniors who had wandered from home due to cognitive decline. This situation is a concern for the health and well-being of the senior and the tremendous stress on family at the time of this crisis.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. Hawaii's people need legislation to help this vulnerable population of elders. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 SD2, be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2305-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:44:10 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/12/2024 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Amato and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife Deborah are strong supporters of SB 2305 SD2. 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 relieved 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 support for SB 2305 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sinceely, Dan Gardner

Honolulu, HI 96821