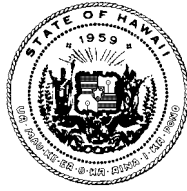


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety & Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: February 2, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Executive Office on Aging.

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

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

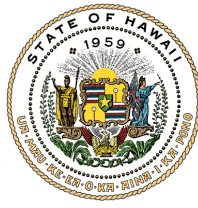
February 1, 2024

Page 2

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
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Before the Senate Committees on
Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
and
Health and Human Services
Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference
Testifiers: Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Elefante and Aquino, and members of the Committees:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2305.

The DLE prefers this bill over Senate Bill 2486, which is also on the agenda for this hearing, and asks that this measure, **Senate Bill 2305**, is passed out.

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.

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



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

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

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

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
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATOR BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, VICE CHAIR

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

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

Hearing: Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 P.M., Conference Room 225

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **strongly supports** the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Law
- 3 Enforcement.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law
- 6 Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or
- 7 older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Hawaii is number 1 in life expectancy

1 at 80.7 years of age. 1 in 4 individuals are over the age of 60. 27.8% of older adults live with a
2 disability and in 2020, an estimated 29,000 elders are living with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025,
3 the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i is expected to rise to 35,000, an
4 increase of more than 20 percent from 2020.

5 As a community, we owe it to our kupuna and individuals with disabilities living with cognitive
6 impairments to have a system in place that will alert the public if these individuals go missing.

7 Other states have implemented such a system and Hawaii would build upon the Maile Alert
8 System.

9 Our kupuna nurtured and cared for us. We have the responsibility to do the same.

10 **Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure and deferred to the Department of
11 Law Enforcement for implementation.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 02, 2024

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

Dear Senator Buenaventura and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2305 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2305**, 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. Appropriates funds.

A Silver Alert is activated when an elderly, developmentally, or cognitively impaired person has gone missing and is determined to be at risk. These Silver Alerts have proven effective in providing immediate information to the public, facilitating a prompt response and enhancing the chances of locating individuals who meet the specified criteria. The implementation of a Silver Alert system aligns with the best practices observed in thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia, as indicated by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA).

By passing SB2305, the State Council and Alzheimer's Association can collaborate to apply for a grant under the Silver Alert Grant Program Act of 2008, which authorized the Attorney General to award grants to states to implement or improve a Silver Alert system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB2305**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

The Senate
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, February 2, 2024
3:00 p.m.

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Health and Human Services
Re: SB 2305, Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice-Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, 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 retirees who are members of AFL-CIO, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, HGEA, IAM, CAN, and other organizations.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 2305** that seeks to establish a Silver Alert program in Hawaii, much like the thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have implemented to locate missing kupuna.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2305 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Elefante and Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW supports SB2305, 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

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

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", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

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

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Kaiser Permanente

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John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

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

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Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: January 31, 2024

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Public Safety &
Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

Senator Joy A. SanBuenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services

Re: Support for SB2305 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 PM

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

Mahalo,

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

Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawaii Public Health Institute

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

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



January 31, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB2305 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 PM

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

HPHA supports SB2305 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 SB2305 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



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs and Health and Human Services
Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Wakai, Chair San Buenaventura, 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, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish a “Silver Alert” Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety.

We note that this bill is substantively similar to another measure on this agenda, Senate Bill No. 2486.

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.

SB-2305

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:40:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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



Testimony to
the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 p. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2305 Relating to Missing Persons

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training. I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty-five years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition.

The **Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2305**, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled; and appropriates funds.

The silver alert program can save lives.

We urge you to support the silver alert program and SB 2305, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

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

Gary Simon



Email gsimon@arp.org

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*President
Becker Communications*

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

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and

the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

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

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

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We testify in **STRONG SUPPORT**.

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 \$250,000 in general funds 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.

We would like to acknowledge the multiple measures on the agenda that serve a similar purpose to establish a silver alert program in Hawaii: Senate Bill Nos. 2305 and 2486. We appreciate the introducers for ensuring there is a discussion on the issue.

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

We would like to note our discussions with various community and business organizations, government agencies, and public and private sector unions, including, but not limited to, the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), Department of Transportation (HDOT), Department of Human Services (DHS), Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), AARP Hawaii, Papa Ola Lokahi, Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA), Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI), the Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Kokua Council, Hawaii Parkinson Association (HPA), Hawaii Association for Behavioral Analysis (HABA), United Public Workers (UPW), Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA), and UNITE HERE! Local 5. We recognize their support on this issue, exemplified through testimony submitted on House Bill No. 1774, passed out of the House Committee on Human Services on January 30, 2024.

The Alzheimer's Association remains steadfast in its position to seek a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of persons living with dementia and their families and effectively disseminates relevant information about missing individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias to the appropriate local law enforcement and community support networks. **We ask you to pass Senate Bill No. 2305 or 2486** for continued discussions.

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



Testimony before the Senate
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Committee on Health and Human Services

SB 2305 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
SB 2486 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 225
State Capitol

By Glen Higa, President
Hawaii Parkinson Association

Chair Glenn Wakai, Chair Joy San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Parkinson Association strongly supports SB 2305 and SB 2486. Both bills aim to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing neurological diseases, with someone in the US diagnosed every 6 minutes. Hawaii's approximately 8,000 diagnosed, is expected to double by 2030. Many of them will also suffer from cognitive impairment or dementia.

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 Committees to pass either 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.

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

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 2305
Relating to Missing Persons

Hearing: Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
and video conference

Senate Committee on Public Safety
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

My name is Joanne Kealoha, representing the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA **supports** S.B. 2305, which establishes a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to “rapidly” alert the public of missing persons who are vulnerable kupuna and persons with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities.

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

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

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

Subsection (g) (3) of S.B. 2305 specifies that the “person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.” However, persons with cognitive impairments are vulnerable because of their impairments, which are neither “unexplained” nor “under suspicious circumstances.” If this condition must be met to trigger a Silver Alert, the intent of the bill may be compromised.

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans requests that subsection (g) (3) be reconsidered and urges passage of S.B. 2305. Thank you for considering our testimony.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2305: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs/ Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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

Hearing: **Friday, 2/2/24; 3:00 pm; via Videoconference or CR 225**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Acquino, and Members, Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 2305**, which establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons. 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 kupuna 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 by passing this bill.

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





Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 1, 2024

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante & Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino & Members of the Committee

Re: **Bill SB 2305 & SB 2486 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

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

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and healthcare industries. We are in SUPPORT of SB 2305 & SB 2486. Bills and programs aimed to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age and older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled should be established and funded.

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

The elderly, cognitively impaired and developmentally disabled are among the most vulnerable in our community. We appreciate the introducers of these bills. Please pass Bills SB 2305 & SB 2486.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
February, February 2, 2024
Conference Room 225, 3:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for S.B. 2305 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

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 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.

S.B. 2305 is very similar to S.B. 2486 which we also support and ask that you pass Senate Bill No. 2305 or 2486. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support.

SB-2305

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:37:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support, thank you.

SB-2305

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:52:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Wailana Kukila	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

RE: SB2305 Relating to Missing Persons

Position: Support

I fully support this bill and look forward to providing oral testimony on the importance of this measure during the public hearing on Friday, February 2, 2024.

Mahalo,

Shana W. Kukila

Hilo, HI

SB-2305

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:46:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Calvin Hara and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

In my thirty years of experience working with seniors, I have seen situations where a person with dementia wanders from home. It is that frantic moment that a more concerted effort can help locate a loved one.

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. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii

cmhara@comcast.net

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing:

Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 pm
Conference Room 225 and Video Conference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONEY ON SENATE BILL 2305
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

To: Sen. Glenn Wakai and Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Chairs; Sen. Brandon Elefante and Sen. Henry Aquino, Vice Chairs; and Members of the Committees

My name is Anna Filler and I am in strong support of **SB 2305**. This bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

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. I request that **SB 2305** be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Anna Filler
Sen. District 12, Waikiki, Ala Moana, Kaka’ako
Email: afiller@twc.com

SB-2305

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:45:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2305 and SB2486 - Establishment of a Silver Alert Program

To Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Cindy Aban, a Medical Assistant and Executive Board Member of the Healthcare Division at Unite Here Local 5, expressing **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2305 and SB2486.

The proposed bill is crucial as it seeks to establish a silver alert program, providing a vital mechanism to locate and ensure the safety of vulnerable missing persons.

I remember when I was a child, my family faced the challenge of locating my late great-grandfather, Tomas Dolormente, who suffered from dementia. We were fortunate to promptly locate him by utilizing local Filipino radio stations, the support of friends and family, and assistance from HPD. This program's implementation will prove invaluable for future generations.

Anticipating a significant increase in Alzheimer's cases to over 36,000 next year, the urgency cannot be overstated. Individuals with dementia, susceptible to disorientation even in familiar settings, often exhibit signs of anxiety, fear, or aggression. With a projected six in ten individuals with dementia wandering at some point, the potential for false reports, victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting escalates.

This initiative will also honor hardworking families juggling multiple jobs and caring for their loved ones. Recognizing the challenges faced by these families, the silver alert program provides essential support.

Notably, Hawai'i lacks a formalized silver alert despite being one of the few states without such a system. I earnestly request the passage of SB2305 and SB2486 to address this gap.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo!

Cindy Aban
Waipahu, HI
Email: caban54@gmail.com

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:17:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Ueda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino and Committee Members

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2305. This bill proposes to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

I have a friend who was working and caring for her father who had dementia and used to wandered off. I remember how distraught and worried she was looking everywhere for him for hours and hoping someone would call to say they had found him and he was safe.

As our population ages, there will be more cases of persons with memory issues wandering from home. This proposal will provide a great assistance for families trying to care for elder family members on their own.

Please support Senate Bill 2305.

Thank you,

Esther Ueda, Pearl City

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:21:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Wyatt	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Wyatt, and I am the President of Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i, an adult day care group. At Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i we care for over 80 clients that are living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias are most times confused or disoriented if they are not in their normal surroundings. If they have left their safe place, either from home, or a nursing home, or other facilities where they stay for safety, they may not know how to get back or to be able to ask for help. I have been working with these people for over 25 years and I have seen the devastating effects of someone being out alone and not knowing how to get home. They get lost, they get frightened, and sometimes they end up in unsafe locations. They may find a comfortable place to just sit or lay down and they stay there, hoping someone will find them. Many have not been found until it is too late and they have perished either from exposure to inclement weather or other situations. I have seen this happen here in Hawai`i and other states. It is traumatic for families and caregivers because they were unable to find their person.

Issuing a Silver Alert, similar to an Amber Alert for children, is really important to the effort of quickly finding someone who is lost before it is too late, enabling more people to help find these folks.. I ask that SB2305 be passed for the safety of our citizens.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Kathy Wyatt

808-292-4665

Waipahu, HI

kwyatt01@aol.com

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 9:29:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. SB2305

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Nancy Rose and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

My father lived with some form of dementia for 10-15 years until he passed away in 2016. Before his disease became severe, he would take walks in his neighborhood and sometimes come home to his wife saying that he saw Ben Rothlisberger, the (then) quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She knew this wasn’t true and accepted his version of reality. As his disease progressed, he fortunately stopped taking those walks! I shudder to think of him walking and becoming disoriented and lost. I’d sure like to know that in Hawaii we could have a Silver Alert program to assist families when our loved ones may wander.

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. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii

808-264-2663

TO THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING SB2305

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2024

TIME: 3:00 PM

Bill No: **SB2305**

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members

I urge the committee to approve SB2305 which seeks to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Projections have indicated that the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000 within the State of Hawaii.

Unfortunately, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative disease and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms. There might be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. Six in ten individuals with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. Thus, the importance of SB2305 cannot be stressed enough to increase the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

SB2305 intends to establish and appropriate the needed resources toward a robust silver alert program akin to other states that have implemented such a program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older. It is important to note that Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Yet, we have one of the largest senior populations per capita in the nation.

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

In summation, I am in support of SB2305 and request that this bill pass out of this committee and that all changes to this bill should be in keeping with the introducer's intent. The passage of this bill will increase the safety of all seniors here in Hawaii.

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

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

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

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 10:12:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife are strong supporters of SB 2305. In the past I have spent time searching for an elderly friend's husband who had wandered away from their home and was missing. It was a scary experience and fortunately our friend's husband was located successfully. I can only imagine the fear and concern my friend experienced while her husband was in the wind. Sadly, Hawai'i is one of just a few States that does not have a formalized Silver Alert. We request that SB 2305 be supported. We also are supportive of SB 2486 on the related subject. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of both SB 2305 and SB 2486.

Dan Gardner, Honolulu, daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:41:03 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Greg Misakian and I currently serve as 2nd Vice President of Kokua Council.

I support SB2305

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:57:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I would like to offer my strong support for both SB 2305 and SB 2486 regarding the establishment of a silver alert program in Hawaii.

As has been demonstrated in many mainland jurisdictions, a silver alert program expands the eyes of the community in locating and returning to a safe haven those persons that due to alzheimers or other dementia related concerns may otherwise not be found in a safe condition.

Silver alert programs expand the search to include highway signs, social media, electronic media as well as local, regional and state law enforcement. The more "eyes" involved in the search, it seems the more likely the safe recovery and return of the patient may take place.

As a family member that has lost a loved one to alzheimers, I strongly encourage this legislative body to push forward and implement a strong and robust Silver Alert system in a timely manner.

Thank you

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 12:38:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Christe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the creation of a silver alert. Alzheimer's run in my family and I would like to know that we could utilize very resource available to help find those that wonder off.

SENATE [COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS](#)

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

SENATE [COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES](#)

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

JOINT HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2024
TIME: 3:00 PM

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Linda Dorset

Wailuku, Maui

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 2:49:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii needs a silver alert system to protect our elderly citizens.

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 2:55:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tani Salazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

Aloha pumehana kākou!

My name is Tani Salazar and I'm testifying in strong support. This bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

My late grandfather had Alzheimer's disease and experienced wandering. There were times when he got lost for hours and our family went driving all over town searching for him. Thankfully, he was found and brought back home safely. But this is not the case for all families with loved ones who have wandered, gotten lost and went missing. This bill can make a positive impact to change that reality for future generations.

We're one of the few states in the nation that does not have a silver alert program. We have the highest life expectancy in the nation and a growing population of our beloved kūpuna. We also have an increasing number of persons living with dementia. Even when only looking at Alzheimer's disease, it's projected that at least 35,000 persons will be living with the disease next year. This does not include persons living with other types of dementia, mild cognitive impairment, or who haven't been diagnosed yet.

Let's get Hawai'i on track with the rest of the nation and bring more people who wander back home safely. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo a nui loa for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

LATE

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Health and Human Services
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 2, 2024

S.B. 2305 — RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

LATE

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:16:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. [Insert Bill Number]
 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
 Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm
 Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

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

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

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

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB 2305 and SB 2486 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Kathleen Davenport
Kapolei, Hawaii
808-372-0065

LATE



February 2, 2024

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the Senate Committees on PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
In Support of

SB 2305 - RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha PSM Chair Wakai, PSM Vice Chair Elefante, HHS Chair San Buenaventura, HHS Vice Chair and members of the Committees:

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

LATE

Testimony on Senate Bill No. SB 2305

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

My name is Ohad Amidor, and I am a student in the social work program at UH Manoa. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. We are the only state in the country that has no silver alert, and I believe it is time for us to join the rest. This bill is crucial, and it can save many lives and help many families in times of desperate need.

My Grandmother-in-law is an Alzheimer's patient; she is in an advanced stage of the disease, and her level of confusion is sad to watch. She can wander and lose her way as he has no cognitive abilities that will help her know her way back home or the ability to contact her loved ones. She lives in Georgia, where the silver alert is in place. I hope our state can give this service to all of its Kupunas.

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 their name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. 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.

I request that SB 2305 be passed; it is long overdue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor,

Haiku, HI

Amidor@hawaii.edu

LATE

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 8:15:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Bojorquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. [Insert Bill Number]

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Melissa C Bojorquez, and I am the social worker, healthcare executive and consultant as well as a past caregiver for my mother who suffered from Vascular Dementia. I am in STRONG SUPPORT. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

As a longtime social worker, case manager and health consultant who has worked in our island community, I have witnessed the struggle of families and caregivers who have a loved one who

suffers from Alzheimers and Dementia Related Diagnosis /ADRD The fear and frustration of 24 hour care and watch for someone with ADRD is highly stressful and can be devastating when our loved one "wanders". We as a State and communities have to enable technology, communication mechanisms and vigilant workorce as community awareness to create a safety net of protection. Creating a "Silver Alert System" is vitally critical responsibility of our legislative law makers and community leaders.

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. I request that SB2305 and SB 2486 be passed.

Mahalo for the oppportunity to testify!

Melissa C. Bojorquez

Pearl City, Hawaii

email: melissacareopsconsult@gmail.com

LATE

SB-2305

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 8:16:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Johnson	Testifying for Pono Consulting	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Glenn Wakai and Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Brandon Elefante and Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

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

Hawai‘i is also one of the few states in the nation that does not have a state Search And Rescue (SAR) system and Missing Persons falls within the umbrella of Missing Persons.

This bill, 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, is very important and vital.

Safety and prevention are the initial steps toward reducing the number of incidents. **SB2305 represents a significant stride in achieving this goal.**

Furthermore, **for many bills to be fully implemented and enforced during this legislative session, it is crucial to establish a solid foundation for a State SAR System to build upon.**

As it stands now, in addition to Hawai‘i being one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert or a state Search And Rescue (SAR) system, it is also one of the few states in the country without a:

- State SAR Coordinator
- State SAR Plan
- State SAR fund
- State SAR board to distribute any funds

As Hawai‘i is tied for second in the nation for Missing Persons, along with the eyes of the world on us after the wildfires, we cannot afford to defer these issues any longer.

Every year, bills are proposed and lots of time, resources, and energy are exhausted for the same results. Let’s learn from the best and honor our police and firemen/women who work so hard to protect us and create a safer Hawai‘i together!

I request that SB2486 be passed within the Department of Law Enforcement and that everyone seriously considers HB 2300, which is proposing an entire statewide system. similar to what other states have.

In order for Hawai'i to be on par to other states with similar and fewer threats, these bills are a way to accomplish complete implementation without impacting the already stretched resources of the DLNR, Police, & Fire departments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rosemarie Johnson

Maui, Hawai'i

Rosemarie@Pono-consulting.com



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Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

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Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Friday, February 2, 2024, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 225 & 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.

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