

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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

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

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1772 HD1
RELATING TO FALLS PREVENTION

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

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

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

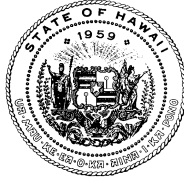
- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **supports** the intent of this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to support the Department of Health's Senior Fall
- 4 Prevention Campaign. Declares the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Falls are a serious health risk for older adults, as it can lead to
- 6 fractures, pain, medication complications, loss of mobility and long-term care admission.
- 7 According to the CDC in 2020, 36,000 fall related deaths in adults, ages 65 and older was
- 8 reported, making it the leading cause of injury death for that age group. Older adult falls cost
- 9 \$50 billion in medical costs annually, with 3/4 of those costs paid by Medicaid and Medicare.
- 10 Many falls are preventable, and education is key. The Department of Health, Falls Prevention

1 Program has a successful falls prevention campaign with the CDC stating that we have the
2 lowest fall and injury rate in the nation. The funding will allow the DOH to continue its public
3 awareness campaign.

4 **Recommendation:** EOA supports this measure to fund a public health campaign for falls
5 prevention.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1772 HD1
Relating to Fall Prevention**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 26, 2024

Room Number: 308

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to support the Department of Health's Senior Fall
- 2 Prevention Campaign. The Department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive
- 3 Biennium Budget.
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health comments on HB1772 HD1. The Bill
- 5 appropriates \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
- 6 Department of Health's senior fall prevention campaign.
- 7 The Department of Health supports the intent of this bill. Every year Hawaii's seniors experience
- 8 significant mortality and morbidity from falls. This measure would add to the department's fall
- 9 prevention program to include Statewide Public Service Announcements (PSA) about fall
- 10 prevention, fall prevention bus posters, statewide medication reviews for seniors through local
- 11 pharmacies, statewide home safety workshops aimed at removing fall hazards from the home,
- 12 and statewide Tai Chi classes for living with arthritis and fall prevention. The department will
- 13 sponsor fall prevention consortium speakers.
- 14 If appropriated, funds for kupuna fall prevention campaign will benefit Hawaii's kupuna by
- 15 reducing injuries, healthcare costs, stress, and anxiety.
- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

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

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

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

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1772 HOUSE DRAFT 1 – RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

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

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We testify in **SUPPORT of House Bill No. 1772 House Draft 1.**

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

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is projected to increase to over 35,000 by next year.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate funds to support the Department of Health's Senior Fall Prevention Campaign.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "About 36 million falls are reported among older adults each year – resulting in more than 32,000 deaths." Individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are at a greater risk for falls because of the changes that are happening in their thinking abilities.

This bill serves a noteworthy purpose to ensure continued education and public awareness on fall prevention. **We ask you to pass House Bill No. 1772 House Draft 1.**

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



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



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 Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024
Conference Room 308, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
RE: Support for H.B 1772 HD1 -Relating to Fall Prevention

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP supports H.B 1772 HD1 which appropriates funds to support the Dept. of Health's Senior Fall Prevention Program.

According to the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "falls among adults aged 65 and older are common, costly, and are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults. In the United States, over 14 million, or one in four, adults ages 65 and older (older adults), report falling each year. While not all falls result in an injury, about 37% of those who fall reported an injury that required medical treatment or restricted their activity for at least one day, resulting in an estimated nine million fall injuries." In most cases, falls are preventable especially if people take steps to reduce the risks by making their homes safer, proper medications and health management, and engage in strength and balance exercises such as tai chi. The Hawaii Department of Health has had a successful senior fall prevention program that includes certified tai chi classes, and it has expanded these classes to over thirty locations and all YMCA5 statewide. Exercise programs like Tai-chi and other falls prevention education and awareness efforts should be continued and supported to reduce the risk of fall-related injuries especially among Hawaii's older residents.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **support of H.B. 1772, HD1.**



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

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

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2024 (10:00 a.m., Conference Room 308 & Videoconference)

RE: **IN SUPPORT OF HB 1772, HD1, Relating to Fall Prevention**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been serving people in need in the State of Hawaii since 1947.

CCH supports HB 1772, HD1, which would provide funding to support the Department of Health's **Senior Fall Prevention Campaign**.

CCH provides services for over 4,000 older adults each year. From hip/shoulder/wrist fractures to traumatic brain injury, the consequences of a fall for a frail older adult can be devastating. Because fall prevention is so critical to independent living, our Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center has integrated a fall risk assessment for every participating older adult – when they join the center and annually thereafter. In addition, tai chi, which is considered a form of exercise that improves balance, is offered at the Center, including a certified volunteer instructor who teaches the evidence-based Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention.

The Senior Fall Prevention Campaign is needed to increase public awareness and education for older adults and their families. Making your home safe, activities to improve balance and strength are just some of the ways in which older adults, and caregivers, can proactively increase safety to prevent falls. Fall prevention can lead to reduced medical costs but most importantly, it will ensure that older adults are able to enjoy a better quality of life.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i asks for your support of HB 1772, HD1. For more information or questions, please feel free to contact Diane Terada, Division Administrator, at 808-527-4702.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Re HB1772 HD1 RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee. My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1772 HD1. The bill Appropriates funds to support the Department of Health's Senior Fall Prevention Campaign. I took the class being presented at the Maui Memorial Medical Center because I was having episodes of light headedness while walking. Aside from the usual diet and exercise advice, there was also useful and otherwise unknown advice on the correct way to walk and to strengthen age related foot muscle deterioration. This is yet another program to allow older people to age at home and keep them out of state financed care institutions. Please support this appropriation and allow others to profit from this program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui**