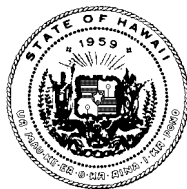


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

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

January 28, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1774](#) – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

Hearing: January 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, 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 additional resources and strategies for providers and families could be developed to raise awareness about access to cars.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
January 30, 2024

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

Dear Representative Lisa Marten and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1774 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1774**, which amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplemental security income or public assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

A Silver Alert is activated when an elderly, developmentally, or cognitively impaired person has gone missing and is determined to be at risk. Silver Alerts provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of at-risk persons meeting the criteria. According to the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have Silver Alert or similar programs.

By passing HB177, the State Council and Alzheimer's Association can work together to apply for a grant through 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 HB1774**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

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 HB1774
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 9:00 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 and defers to the Department of Law
- 3 Enforcement.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funding.
- 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
- 8 at 80.7 years of age. 1 in 4 individuals are over the age of 60. 27.8% of older adults live with a
- 9 disability and in 2020, an estimated 29,000 elders are living with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025,

1 the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease in Hawai’i is expected to rise to 35,000, an
2 increase of more than 20 percent from 2020.

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

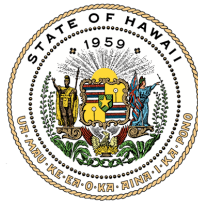
5 Other states have implemented such a system and Hawaii would build upon the Maile Alert
6 System.

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

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

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

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

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Before the House Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Jordan Lowe, Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

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

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

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
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

January 30, 2024
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, RM 329

H.B. NO. 1774
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

House Committee on Human Services

The Hawaii Department of Transportation supports this bill.

The bill 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. Under this program, Silver Alerts would aid in the swift recovery of at-risk persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, have a cognitive disability, or have a developmental disability.

Further, the bill provides that the Department of Law Enforcement may use changeable message signs to activate and post Silver Alerts. The Hawaii Department of Transportation maintains state highway changeable message signs, including dynamic message signs that are strategically located on Oahu highways. The Hawaii Department of Transportation supports the partnership between law enforcement agencies and transportation agencies to issue urgent bulletins via changeable message signs that assist with activation and posting of Silver Alerts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 6:25:20 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a great idea and I will elaborate more at the Hearing based upon a personal experience where friends of mine had a relative missing.



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, January 30, 2024, 9:00 AM
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1774 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

The growing number Alzheimer’s disease cases, as well as other forms of dementia, represents a health crisis that is currently impacting tens of thousands of families across the State. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 36,000.

Furthermore, a person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HEADQUARTERS

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

HAWAII

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

KAUAI

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

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1774 – 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** House Bill No. 1774, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

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

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

According to the Center for Disease Control:

- Alzheimer’s disease is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States;
- The 6th leading of death among US adults; and
- The 5th leading cause of death among adults aged 65 years or older.

In 2023, an estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 year or older had Alzheimer’s disease. **This number is projected to nearly triple to 14 million people by 2060.**

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774
Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

Further, death rates for Alzheimer's disease are increasing, unlike heart disease and cancer death rates that are on the decline. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, has shown to be under-reported in death certificates and therefore the proportion of older people who die from Alzheimer's may be considerably higher.

In Hawaii, Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis:

- 29,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in Hawaii;
- 6.7% of people aged 45 and older have subjective cognitive decline;
- 60,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in Hawaii;
- 91 million hours of unpaid care are provided by Alzheimer's caregivers;
- \$1.9 billion is the value of the unpaid care; and
- \$240 million is the cost of Alzheimer's to the State Medicaid Program.

For these reasons, during the interim prior to the 2024 Regular Session, the HPCA worked closely with the Hawaii Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in researching, drafting, and providing outreach on the bill that is presently before you. Accordingly, we are honored to partner with the Alzheimer's Association on this important measure and urge your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



January 27, 2024

To: Chair Lisa Marten
Vice Chair Terez Amato
Members of the Committee

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

Hrg: Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024, 9:00 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 HB 1774 as the bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. HPHA strongly supports HB 1774 and respectfully asks that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

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, January 30, 2024; 9:00 a.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, and Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1774 – 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 House Bill No. 1774.**

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 36,000 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.

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

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

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 Human Services
Tuesday, January 30, 2024
Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for H.B. 1774 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 H.B. 1774 which establishes a silver alert program within the Dept. of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety.

With the rapidly aging population in Hawaii, the number of person afflicted with the Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related conditions is also increasing. Unfortunately, six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address — and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Having a statewide Silver Alert, a public notification system used to broadcast information about missing persons, will help find and protect vulnerable persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia who wander. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized Silver Alert. We are long overdue for a system that will aid in the missing person's recovery and safe return back home.

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



Tuesday January 30, 2024 9:00 am

Relating to Missing Persons

Support for HB 1774

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

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

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

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

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KOBABURDT".

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

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:44:15 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shellie Niles	Catholic Charities Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Catholic Charities Hawaii is in support of HB 1774. This 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. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Please help protect our vulnerable kupuna and individuals by passing this bill. Mahalo for your support and the opportunity to testify.



January 30, 2024

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

HB 1774 - RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

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

The mission of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is to effectively advocate for the educational, civic, health, cultural, economic, and social well-being of our lāhui. We are especially concerned about the care of kūpuna and we support this measure as it can be a helpful tool in locating a kūpuna who may have wandered from their home or family due to dementia or Alzheimer's. Many of our members have family who are directly affected by dementia and have experienced cases of wandering. We also note that the State of Hawai'i is one of few jurisdictions that do not have a formal system in place designed to help locate lost loved ones.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 61 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,000 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.



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, January 30, 2023, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

RE: HB 1774 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Position: SUPPORT

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

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

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



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representatives
Committee on Human Services

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 30, 2024

H.B. 1774 — RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH

Chair

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH

Secretary

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

Debbie Erskine

Treasurer

ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW

Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD

University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd

Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD

Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD

Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP

Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS

John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD

State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

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

Kāpuna Collective

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2024

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

Re: Support for HB1774 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HB1774**, 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 HB1774. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,



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>

LATE



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

January 29, 2024

House Committee on Human Services
Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Terez Amato

LATE

Re: **Bill HB1774 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Chair Martin and Vice Chair Amato and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and healthcare industries. We are in SUPPORT of 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 and older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Joli Tokusato

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 5:31:23 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am an 80-year old citizen; my ancestors before me suffered from dementia, and I have no doubt that sometime in my remaining life, I will likely have dementia or alzheimer's disease. Thus, urge you to pass out of committee HB1774, which would establish 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.

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 HB 1774 be passed. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:30:55 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

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

My name is Ohad Amidor; 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 very important, 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 that 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 his or her 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 HB 1774 be passed, it is long due.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor,

Haiku, HI

Amidor@hawaii.edu

BILL	HB 1774
HEARING	Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024, 9:00 AM
LOCATION	State Capitol – Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
COMMITTEE	House Committee on Human Services (HUS)
AGENDA	https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/hearingnotices/HEARING_HUS_01-30-2

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

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

I have had two friends diagnosed with Alzheimer' disease and it has been a difficult time helping them.

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 HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Dolores Foley
Kailua, Oahu

**House of Representatives
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, January 30, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

To: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Re: HB 1774, Relating to Missing Persons

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

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

I 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 HB 1774** 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 HB 1774 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

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774
Relating to Missing Persons

January 28, 2024

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

My name is John McCarthy. I retired from the Honolulu Police Department as a deputy chief after forty-five years of service. I am in strong support of HB 1774 which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard our kupuna, cognitively impaired and disabled persons.

During my time in the HPD, I had far too many experiences with this group of people just walking off from their home, families and caregivers. Some were found sooner or later. Sadly, some of their remains were discovered long after they disappeared. Some disappearing forever. The suffering they experienced was transferred to their loved ones to continue after their disappearance.

A program like this could potentially help save much suffering and many lives. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and help make it law.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

John D. McCarthy

Kailua, HI 96734

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:51:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten, Vice Chair Terez Amato and Committee Members
testifying in support of HB 1774 Relating to Missing Persons

I am

I have a friend who was working and being a caregiver to her dad who had dementia and used to wander frequently. I remember how worried she was everytime this happened, and how she spent hours looking for him and hoping someone would call to say they had found him and he was safe. With our aging population I realize this kind of situation will become more prevalent. Having this Silver Alert program will be a big help to families who are trying to care for their elders. on their own. Thank you for your support of this proposal.

Esther Ueda, Pearl City

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:52:58 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Cynthia Au. 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.

As my parents age, I am worried what might happen to them since I do not live with them if they find themselves lost and wandering about.

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 HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Cynthia Au

Honolulu, HI 96814

shakababa808@gmail.com

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Shayna Kawamura, and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am submitting testimony 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.

I have experience in caregiving for older adults living with Alzheimer's disease. The families I have worked with express deep concerns regarding the safety of their loved ones. Older adults living with Alzheimer's disease can wander, which puts their safety at high risk and could be life threatening. A silver alert program can give families peace of mind knowing that effective emergency measures are in place. Therefore, I strongly support HB 1774 as it would greatly contribute to ensuring the well-being and security of our kupuna.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Shayna Kawamura
Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:19:20 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lisa Martin, Vice Chair terez Amato and Members of the Committee,

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

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:51:44 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Calvin Hara and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1773. My work background has been thirty years in senior care and I have also been a family caregiver.

This bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year. Given the prevalence of people with dementia in the community, it is ever so important that law enforcement understand how to best communicate with persons with varying levels of dementia.

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.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals.

I encourage you to pass HB 1773. Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii

cmhara@comcast.net

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Glen Higa, and I am the President of the Hawaii Parkinson Association. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, 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's vitally important that we have a system in place to help keep them safe. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized system in place. I request that HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Glen Higa
1315 Kapalama Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817
president@parkinsonshawaii.org
(808) 348-2767

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:45:50 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Suto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

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

My name is Naomi Suto, and I am the a resident of Oahu who recently lost my father due to Alzheimers. 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.

When my father who had Alzheimers, walked out of his carehome, our hearts dropped and we feared that he would not be found. There were some cases prior where the lost person was never found and we feared the worst. Fortunately, we found him safe but this bill will greatly help the

growing population that will or are currently living with loved ones with Alzheimer's or other memory issues.

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 HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Naomi Suto

1080 Ala Napunani Street, Honolulu, HI

808 836-7726

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:27:57 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Naomi Manuel and I am an approaching caregiver of a rapidly aging parent. **I am in strong support of HB 1774, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**, to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

In June, my mother will be 80 years old. A silver alert program will increase awareness and the safety of our kupuna who may get lost and expedite the process to find them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Naomi Manuel

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:29:12 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

i am in strong support of the hb 1774 beacuse in the mainland they have sliver alert in their emergency boadcast system and in state of hawaii they have amber alert for a missing child have been abducted or kidnaped i woud be nice if they have silver alert in the state of hawaii emergency alert system plan (EAS) so people can find them and bring them back home safely please pass HB1774 thank you.

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

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

HEARING: **HB1774**

Bill No: **HB1774**

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

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

Unfortunately, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative disease and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms. There might be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. Six in ten individuals with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. Thus, the importance of HB1744 cannot be stressed enough to increase the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

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

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:27:57 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Tabor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1774

RELATING TO DEMENTIA Silver Scripts

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

My name is Rick Tabor, and I am retired Mental Health Professional currently active on 10 Kupuna Boards. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1774. The bill aims to implement Dementia Silver Scripts for folks with Dementia who become lost or are missing. One of the most dangerous occurrences with our dementia diagnosed individuals is wandering and getting lost. My mother wandered out of her place and was found passed out outside in the early morning. She was in pretty bad shape, injured, scared and very confused. As noted in previous testimonies, she is now in a nursing home. I'd strongly recommend and support the Silver Script bill's passage. This will give folks some peace of mind and help all involved. I'm available for any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Sincerely Rick Tabor

LATE

LATE

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:04:10 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 A

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poki'i Balaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Dr. Poki'i Balaz. I am a clinician and caregiver to my father who has Alzheimer's Disease. 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.

I have personally experienced this situation, the unrelenting worry and panic that initially hits you when you learn that your loved one is missing. At the time there was no alert and I felt constant worry regarding falls, getting lost, or someone reacting negatively because they may not be able to understand what was happening. Fortunately for me, my loved one was found but in those hours of searching, there is only hope, to hold on to as you become the detective, trying to decipher where your loved one could be. For some their loved one never returns home and can you imagine how that feels?

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 HB 1774 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Poki'i Balaz

'Aiea, HI 96701

pokiibalaz@gmail.com

LATE

LATE

HB-1774

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:50:06 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am Cindy A, a medical assistant and Executive Board Member of the Healthcare Division at Unite Here Local 5. We strongly support House Bill No. 1774, which proposes the establishment of a silver alert program for individuals aged sixty-five or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My personal experience with my great-grandfather, who had dementia, underscores the urgency of such a program. Our family was fortunate to locate him promptly by broadcasting his disappearance on a Filipino radio station and the assistance of hpd.

With the number of people with Alzheimer’s disease expected to surpass 36,000 next year, the need for a silver alert system in Hawaii is critical. Dementia sufferers may wander, leading to anxiety and potential aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses, false reports, victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting incidents may arise.

It is essential for Hawaii to adopt HB 1774, addressing a gap as one of the few states without a formalized silver alert system. I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cindy Aban

Waipahu, HI

Caban54@gmail.com