

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

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

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2305, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Michael Vincent

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 and requests the original appropriation amount of \$250,000.

This bill establishes a Silver Alert program within the DLE to give the community a critical tool to help locate and protect missing kupuna and those who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. We currently have the Amber Alert program to serve the same function for endangered children and youth. However, a similar tool currently does not exist for the elderly, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. This bill helps fill this extremely needed void for the protection of these people.

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

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



SB2305 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 20, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees (BOT) that it **SUPPORT SB2305 SD2 HD1**, 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 and appropriates funds.

Establishing a silver alert program in Hawai‘i to protect vulnerable kūpuna and individuals with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities who may go missing is essential for ensuring the safety and security of our elders and those with special needs. Moreover, the proposed silver alert program aligns perfectly with the values and priorities outlined in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs’ Strategic Plan, Mana i Maui Ola. This strategic plan emphasizes the foundational pillar of ‘Ohana (family) as a fundamental influence on the well-being of Native Hawaiians. Additionally for Native Hawaiians, our kūpuna are the ‘ipu of our people’s cultural knowledge, values, mo‘ōlelo, and language. Ka na‘auao o nā kūpuna ka lama e ho‘omālamalama i ke ala no nā keiki. The wisdom of the elders is the torch that enlightens the path of the children. By establishing a silver alert program, we honor our ‘ohana and uphold our commitment to promoting the holistic well-being of our community.

Alzheimer's disease affects 29,000 people aged 65 and older in Hawai‘i and is expected to rise to 35,000 by 2025. It poses a significant health crisis for our community. Older adults with Alzheimer's and related dementias are at high risk of wandering, which can lead to harm or even accidental death in addition to immense stress for caregivers. These statistics underscore the urgent need for a silver alert program to protect our kūpuna and individuals with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities. The establishment of a silver alert program is a proactive measure to address this crisis and ensure the safety of our kupuna.



SB2305 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The silver alert programs have been successfully implemented in 37 other states, highlighting their effectiveness in rapidly disseminating information about missing vulnerable persons. By leveraging existing broadcast platforms, mobile devices, and media outlets, a silver alert program can quickly reach law enforcement and members of the public, facilitating the safe recovery of missing individuals. With proper resources and coordination, the Department of Law Enforcement has the capacity to effectively manage and collaborate with local law enforcement, city and county agencies, and community members to ensure the success of the silver alert program. The goal of a silver alert program is to quickly disseminate information about endangered persons to law enforcement and members of the general public, ultimately keeping our kupuna safe.

OHA asks that this committee **advance SB 2305 SD2 HD1** and thereby take decisive action to establish a silver alert program in Hawai‘i. By doing so, we uphold the values of 'Ohana, and demonstrate our commitment to protecting the well-being of Native Hawaiian and all communities. Mahalo for your attention to this critical issue that affects the lives of our kūpuna and vulnerable individuals.



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

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Tarnas and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2305 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2305 SD2 HD1**, 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.

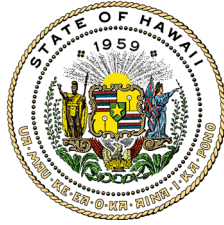
Silver Alerts, such as those activated under SB2305 SD2 HD1, are vital tools in ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities who may go missing. These alerts provide immediate information to the public, facilitating swift action to locate and safeguard at-risk persons. Given the vulnerability of individuals with developmental disabilities to wandering and becoming lost, the implementation of Silver Alerts in Hawaii is crucial for their protection.

The success of Silver Alert programs in thirty-seven other states, as highlighted by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), underscores their effectiveness in aiding the recovery of at-risk individuals. By enacting SB2305 SD2 HD1, Hawaii has the opportunity to join the ranks of states with robust missing person alert systems, thereby enhancing the safety and security of all residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB2305 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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

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

**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

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

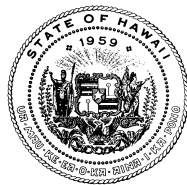
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
REP. DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
REP. GREGG TAKAYAMA, VICE-CHAIR

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00 P.M., Conference Room 325

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **strongly supports** the intent of this measure, provided that its enactment does
- 3 not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's executive budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds. Declares the general fund expenditure ceiling is
- 5 exceeded.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law
- 7 Enforcement to locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years or older,
- 8 cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. By 2025, the number of people living with
- 9 Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i is expected to rise to 35,000. A person with dementia may not

- 1 remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six
- 2 in ten people with dementia will wander at some point.
- 3 Establishing a silver alert program that can quickly alert the public about the missing person is
- 4 critical to find and help vulnerable individuals with Alzheimer’s and/or dementia and individuals
- 5 with cognitive impairments and developmental disabilities.
- 6 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports the intent of this measure and defers to the
- 7 Department of Law Enforcement for implementation.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2305 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

March 20th, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Room Number: 325

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR), housed in the Office of the Governor, **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2305 SD2 HD1, Relating to Missing Persons so long as it does not adverse impact priorities identified in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request for FY2025.

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

Alzheimer's disease affects 29,000 people aged 65 and older in Hawai'i, making it a growing health crisis. Older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are at high risk of wandering, leading to harm, accidental death, and care partner stress¹. S.B. 2305 SD2 HD1 establishes a program that quickly broadcasts information state-wide, about missing persons who are sixty-five years or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled and determined to be at risk.

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

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

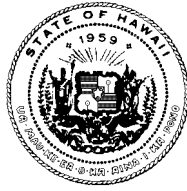
Mahalo

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

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

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 19, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Cathy Betts, Director
SUBJECT: **SB 2305 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Hearing: March 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Executive Office on Aging. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2042. (HD1)

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

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

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

The Committee on Human Services (HD1) amended the measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

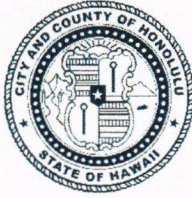
DHS acknowledges that establishing a Silver Alert system raises privacy concerns for the individual as well as the individual's family and may not be very effective if the system is not sufficiently resourced and coordinated. However, a [recent article](#) analyzing Silver Alert activations in Texas from 2017-2022 described high activations involving older men using vehicles on holidays and Wednesdays during the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Perhaps additional resources and strategies for providers and families could be developed to raise awareness about access to cars.

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

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

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

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

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

OUR REFERENCE **VL-BT**

March 20, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and
Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Missing Persons

I am Vince Legaspi, Acting Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Missing Persons.

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

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

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
Page 2
March 20, 2024

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

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

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

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Missing Persons.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Vince Legaspi, Acting Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

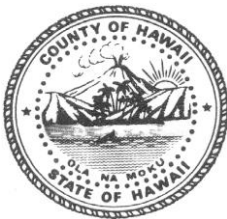
APPROVED:



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

STEPHEN L. FRYE
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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

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

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

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL NO. 2305 SD2 HD1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY &
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325
And Via Video Conference

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of the passage of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD1.

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

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

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

For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:46:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	In Person

Comments:

At previous Hearings on this issue I referenced a personal experience where I saw what happened when a person with dementia wandered off and I saw the lack of coordination between the Police Department and others who were trying to find this person. It is clear to me that a mechanism such as a Silver Alert is needed and would improve our efforts to keep such people safe. An aunt of some close friends of mine was missing for over 24 hours. A police report had been filed with HPD and there was a television alert regarding her. Yet, HPD came upon her only because she walked into a beauty salon and the proprietor called the police. In her purse, thankfully, was a note to call her niece if she were ever found. That was why she was successfully re-united with her family. Despite the Missing Person Report and the TV spot, HPD never made any connection with the fact that they were supposed to be looking for this woman. So, clearly the current system has some gaps and holes and a Silver Alert would have to help remedy that situation.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2305, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2305, House Draft 1, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

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

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a "Silver Alert" Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety;
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to establish the "Silver Alert" Program; and
- (3) Take effect on January 1, 2042.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

According to the Center for Disease Control:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The HPCA acknowledges the concerns raised by the Honolulu Police Department and is working with the Alzheimer's Association to see if a compromise can be reached before the adjournment sine die of the 2024 Regular Session. These efforts have also included communications with the other County police departments and the responses received so far have been positive.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
Page 3

For sake of facilitating continued discussion, the HPCA respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

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

2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

Lori McCarney, Chair
Community Advocate

Dr. Pokii Balaz, Immediate
Past Chair
*Obama Foundation
Kokua Kalih Valley*

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

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

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Central Pacific Bank*

Kai Ohashi
*Financial Advisor
Edward Jones*

Michael Robinson
*Vice President
Hawaii Pacific Health*

Kimberly Soares
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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 Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325, and Videoconference

RE: SENATE BILL 2305 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association–Aloha Chapter serves the residents of Hawaii to help all those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives. We testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD1 and offer amendments for your consideration.**

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged sixty-five and older live with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is projected to increase to over 35,000 by next year. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of a blank amount or so much thereof for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Department of Law Enforcement to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. This will be made effective on January 1, 2024.

Our research indicates that Hawaii is the only state that does not have a formalized silver alert program. There is no federal funding or mandate for it. It is the onus of the state or jurisdiction to establish the alert in statute, policy, or procedure. Across the nation, we have seen varying population criteria used, which include an age requirement, cognitive impairment, or developmental disability.

During the interim before the 2024 Regular Session, the Alzheimer's Association entered into discussions on a silver alert program with various community and business organizations, government agencies, and public and private sector unions, which is reflected in the testimony submitted on this measure and its companion, House Bill No. 1774. Among these stakeholders are 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, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, 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), Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), Hawaii Association for Behavioral Analysis (HABA), Easterseals Hawaii, Hawaii Association for Retired Americans (HARA), United Public Workers (UPW), Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA), UNITE HERE! Local 5, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 142, Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996, and Chamber of Commerce Hawaii. All have supported the silver alert and understand the critical need for our communities.

In addition, to learn from existing silver alert programs, the Alzheimer's Association led discussions between Representative Cory Chun, DLE, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the New Jersey State Police. They all manage the Silver Alert program in their respective states or jurisdictions. Although their processes and criteria may differ, we learned that the program effectively assists with recovering missing vulnerable persons. California has six recognized types of alerts, all of which are managed by CHP's Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC). In 2023, ENTAC issued 189 silver alerts. Of those, 181 were recovered, with 5 deceased. This staggering information validates the significance of a missing persons alert.

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

- (1) **Appropriate \$250,000 to plan and implement the silver alert in Hawaii.**
- (2) **This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2024.**

The Alzheimer's Association remains steadfast in its position to seek a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of persons living with dementia and their families and effectively disseminates relevant information about missing individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias to the appropriate local law enforcement and community support networks. **We ask you to pass Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD1 with these amendments.**

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 Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Conference Room 325, 2:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for S.B. 2305 SD2, HD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP Supports S.B. 2305 SD2 ,HD1 which establishes a silver alert program within the Dept. of Law Enforcement

to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety.

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

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2305 SD2 HD1: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/20/24; 2:00 pm; via Videoconference or CR 325**

Chair Tarnes, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 2305 SD2 HD1**, which establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons, who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. Makes an appropriation. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the US that does not have a formalized silver alert program. Kupuna in Hawaii are rapidly increasing. More kupuna with dementia and Alzheimer's disease can result in more behaviors that put these vulnerable people at great risk. This can bring trauma and anxiety both to the individual and families who care for these increasingly frail and vulnerable elders. **Six in ten people with dementia will wander off at some point. They may not know their name or address and especially who their caregiver is.**

A silver alert program would help to identify missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. It would help to provide a safe return of these lost individuals to their families and caregivers. What a relief for families to have a silver alert program to contact when they cannot locate their missing loved ones.

Take action now! Please help protect our vulnerable kupuna and others with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities by passing this bill.

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



SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:18:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council	hawaii self advocacy advisory council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Self-advocacy Advisory council strongly supports SB2305 SD2 HD1.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2305, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

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

UPW **supports** SB2305, SD2, HD1, which establishes, and appropriates funds for, a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

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

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

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

HAWAII

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

KAUAI

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

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



March 18, 2024

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Reps. Luke A. Evslin, Greggor Ilagan, Sonny Ganaden, Sam Satoru Kong, Daniel Holt, Tyson K. Miyake, Linda Ichiyama, and Kanani Souza, Committee Members

RE: SB 2305 Relating to Missing Persons – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this letter in support of SB 2305 on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii. Easterseals Hawaii served over 2,300 Hawaii community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2023. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with I/DD can choose their own path.

SB 2305 aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Many persons with I/DD are prone to elopement which can lead them to become separated from their friends and family. Furthermore, many such individuals are unable to communicate their needs and basic information to strangers in a distressing situation such as separation. Some do not use any spoken communication. These factors render the I/DD community especially at risk of adverse outcomes if they become missing persons. A silver alert program will significantly increase the chances of individuals with I/DD returning home.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Easterseals Hawaii supports SB 2305 and respectfully requests your “aye” vote.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this letter.

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

Rachel Liebert Lewis
Legislative Researcher and Policy Architect
Easterseals Hawaii

**House of Representatives
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
2:00 p.m.**

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Re: SB 2305 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair David Tarnas, Vice-Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

I am Lila Mower, President of Kokua Council, one of Hawaii’s oldest advocacy groups, having served Hawaii since 1972. I also serve on the board of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, which has a local membership of over 20,000 retirees from AFL-CIO, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, HGEA, IAM, CAN, and other organizations.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 2305 SD 2 HD 1** that seeks to establish a Silver Alert Program in Hawaii, much like thirty-seven other states and the District of Columbia have implemented to locate missing kupuna.

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

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

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

“By 2035, when the last baby boomer reaches retirement age, nearly 1 in 3 Hawaii residents will be over the age of 60. The more significant change, demographers say, will be a sharp increase in the number of residents over 80 — an age at which people are more likely to have one or more disabilities and need additional health care and assistance with the basics of everyday life.”⁵

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

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

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

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

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

“Approximately 6 out of 10 people with dementia wander at least once. Up to half of wandering older adults with dementia will be seriously injured or die if not detected within 24 hours.”⁶

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

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

For the reasons cited above, I request that SB 2305 SB 2 HD 1 be passed.

Mahalo!

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

⁷ Analysis of Silver Alert Reporting System Activations for Missing Adults With Dementia in Texas, 2017 to 2022, Anthony D. McDonald, PhD, Valerie Danesh, PhD, RN, John M. Ray, PhD, and Alan B. Stevens, PhD



Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00 p. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2305 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Missing Persons

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

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

The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2305 SD 2 HD 1, 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 SD 2 HD 1, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

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

Gary Simon



Email gsimon@aarp.org

HAWAII 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, SD2, HD1
Relating to Missing Persons

Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
and video conference

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA is in **strong support** of S.B. 2305, SD2, HD1, which establishes a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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 family or caregivers and are unable to share with others who they are or where they live. The longer an elderly or cognitively impaired person is left to wander, the greater the likelihood of increased disorientation and injury, or even death.

With a Silver Alert program, the public will be more alert to kupuna and others who appear to be lost or unsure of where or who they are. Even kupuna without a cognitive impairment may need special assistance in unfamiliar situations. A Silver Alert will ensure that appropriate authorities can be contacted more quickly so the person can be returned home safely.

Subsection (g) (3) of S.B. 2305 specifies that the "person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances." We hope this condition does not compromise the intent of the bill as those with cognitive impairment are vulnerable simply because of their impairments, which are neither "unexplained" nor "under suspicious circumstances."

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans requests that subsection (g) (3) be reconsidered and urges passage of S.B. 2305, SD2, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



HIPHI Board

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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

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Native Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
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Community Health
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COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce
Development

Date: March 19, 2024

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Support for SB2305 SD2 HD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00 PM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of SB2305 SD2 HD1**, 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,



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>



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00PM

Conference Room 325 & Video Conference

RE: SB2305 SD2 HD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports SB2305 SD2 HD1**, 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 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Aside from economic leadership, the Chamber also focuses on "quality of life" issues that impact our members, and their employees and families. By next year, the number of people living in the United States with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses, individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, placing them in precarious situations, escalating the need for quality caregiving. Based on feedback from our members, the lack of attention to the industry of Care is a contributing factor to workforce unavailability, which in turn affects and inhibits business growth.

The Chamber emphasizes Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. The Chamber supports this measure and would recognize its implementation as further upgrade to our national standing in general and as of profound benefit to our local community.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.



March 20, 2024

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
In Support of

SB 2305 SD2 HD1 - RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 2305, SD2, HD1, 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. Those who wander may display signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility as they forget memories of family and societal norms. 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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: SB 2305 SD 2 HD 1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies **in support** of SB 2305 SD 2 HD 1, 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.

Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
SB 2305 – Relating to Missing Persons

RE: Support of SB 2305

March 20, 2024

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) writes in **strong support of SB 2305** to create 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. Silver alerts are a vital tool to protect our most at-risk kūpuna that ought to be implemented as soon as possible.

Silver alerts are a successful and established mechanism to locate missing persons who are particularly at-risk due to their age, health, or cognitive condition. Currently, there are forty-two states that have implemented silver alert programs to positive outcomes. Over the course of three years, Florida issued 377 silver alerts where 367 seniors were found safely. Due to the effectiveness of timely intervention and coordinated search efforts, at least 51 of those recoveries were attributed to the silver alert program. A similar program in Hawai'i could help save the lives of our most vulnerable populations.

In 2020, there were nearly 30,000 elderly individuals with Alzheimer's living in Hawai'i; that number is expected to increase to 35,000 over the next five years. Approximately six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point and, when individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, and hostility. This particular class of individuals requires more specified care and dedicated resources to ensure their safety. This bill would not only protect thousands of local residents, but it would also create a reliable way to support their caretakers and family members. The proposed silver alert program makes use of our existing broadcast systems to quickly deploy and coordinate between state and community resources. If passed, SB 2305 bridges a critical gap in our state's safety infrastructure.

This measure gives our kūpuna and their 'ohana the assistance and protection they deserve. For these reasons, we humbly ask that you **PASS SB 2305**.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Madelyn McKeague
Policy Manager, CNHA



March 20, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SB 2305 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2305 SD2 HD1, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that there were 29,000 older adults (65 years and older) living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i in 2020 with a projected 35,000 in that demographic by 2025. We appreciate the efforts of the legislature to help support not only our Kupuna, but their families and caregivers as well. Strengthening the health and well-being of Hawaii is our shared priority.

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations



March 19, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD2, HD1 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: Wednesday, March 20th, 2:00 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 SB 2305 SD2, HD1 as the bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. HPHA strongly supports SB 2305 SD2, HD1 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

PUKALANI

15 Makawao Avenue, Pukalani, HI 96768



SUPERETTE

(808) 572-7616 www.pukalanisuperette.com

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Megan Nakashima, and I am the President of Pukalani Superette. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305, SD2, HD1**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My family is no stranger to Alzheimer's disease. My grandmother and possibly two of her brothers all had the disease, although, I'm not sure if her brothers were officially diagnosed. A few anecdotes came up when I mentioned this opportunity to submit testimony to my father. One that sticks out is that my granduncle, Tom, would sometimes wander off to the next town over. At that time in Upcountry, Maui, that would have included walking a few miles along a two-lane road. My family was always able to locate him, but it always caused worry and took time to track him down.

More recently, we have experienced an older customer come to the store before it opened for the day – he was disoriented and was convinced that he was a store employee and needed to start his shift. We were able to get him home, but we anticipate seeing more customers or previous employees go through the same situation.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305,SD2, HD1, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Nakashima".

Megan Nakashima
President, Pukalani Superette
Pukalani, Hawaii



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • OAHU DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • KAUAI DIVISION: 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

March 20, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Human Services

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SB2305 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

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

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

As many have already testified, kūpuna and people with Alzheimer's are vulnerable to wandering and becoming lost and disoriented. This can also lead to challenging behaviors when approached by others. Establishing a silver alert system rightfully provides resources to set up a system with trained professionals to respond to such situations properly and compassionately.

This issue is personal to the ILWU, as many of our members find themselves having to care for parents or relatives with Alzheimer's and dementia. It is a difficult and in many ways heartbreaking experience. We stand in full support of SB2305, establishing a silver alert system to protect our loved ones and support those who care for them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Christian West
President, ILWU Local 142



SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 2:18:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I would like to express my extremely strong support for SB 2305 relating to missing persons.

I believe it is imperative for the State of Hawaii to support this bill and to establish a robust Silver Alert Program geared toward to locating of those senior citizens suffering the horrors of demintia, cognitive impairment or developmental disabilities.

My family experienced the painful loss of an elderly family member, my brother, who after being diagnosed with dementia "wanderd" from his Mililani home on October 2, 2023 and unfortunately his remains were discovered less than 10 miles from his home on November 22, 2023.

Although law enforcement was notified, there appeared to be no general public notification of his disappearance and it is felt that had there been a robust and structured Silver Alert System utilizing law enforcement, print and electronic media and Department of Transportation highway signage as is used in other states that have established Silver Alert programs, my brother, and other seniors that are missing in Hawaii would be reunited with thier families and professional caretakers to receive the attention required to allow a somewhat normalization of thier remaining years.

It should be noted that Hawaii is one of a handful of states that does not have an established Silver Alert system. As the population of Hawaii continues to age, the probability of more seniors become lost, perhaps forever, continues to grow. I urge the passage ofthis this SB..

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:46:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony Senate Bill 2305, Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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

My name is Rick Tabor, and I am a Retired Mental Health Professional/ Manager, and active member of PABEA (Policy Advisory Board to Elderly Affairs) Honolulu Committee on Aging, Volunteer Long Term Care Ombudsman, President of Hawaii Meals on Wherls & Bobby Benson Center, HPGS (Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society) past president, champion for Alzhiemers Association, Aloha Chapter and an oldest son of a recently passed mother who struggled with Cementia. It is for my Mother, I am giving today's testimony. And for her, I volunteer whatever I can offer to the none profits I'm involved with. Today, like yesterday and for sure tomorrow, I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My family & I rest in peace knowing my Mother is in a better place today. She passed on February 7, 2024. After a very long battle with dementia. She used to wander off. Fortunately she lived in a small town where people knew her. Even so, she did get lost and terrible things happened, and if not for watchfull eyes, we easily could have lost her to her wandering tendencies. I've shared the story of her going out the front door at 1:00am into 35 below zero wind chilled Hell froze over conditions. A neighbor college young man found her passed out from hypothermia at 7:00am. She lost fingers & toes from (exposure) freezing them. It's a miracle she survived. I've worked with dementia wanderers & developmental disabilities wanderers. Every minute counts when someone wanders off, lost, vulnerable, scared, at risk. The Alert System in this bill would be a life saver! For the sake of every person and loved ones who need this program, I thank you for your consideration. I see no reson we would not want to provide this service to those at risk. Mahalo Nui Loa.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point.

When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rick Tabor

Honolulu, HI 96813

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:35:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2305 SD2 HD1.

Gregory Misakian

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dolores Foley, I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305, SD2, HD1**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

I had a friend with Alzheimer's and she would wander and I and her friends would have to comb the neighborhood to find her the silver alert program would have helped.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305, SD2, HD1, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Dolores Foley
Kailua Oahu

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:09:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I found a lost senior with dementia late at night wandering around downtown late at night. I called 911 as the person had clear signs of dementia, didn't know where he was or where he lived at, and was out of place. It was only when police arrived that I found out he was reported missing 6 hours prior. If I hadn't taken the initiative to call 911, which most people wouldn't do, he would've remained lost as there was no announcement that he was missing.

My grandparents suffered from dementia and I would want this system in place if they were lost. Please support SB2305.

Todd Yukutake

toddykutake@gmail.com

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:37:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife Deborah are in strong support of SB 2305 SD2 HD1. This year in Hawaii there will be 35,000 persons with Alzhiemers / Dementia. Persons with this condition can be disoreitnted anytime and anywhere. When lost they may behave erratically and become billigerent. In the past I have spent time searching for an elderly friend's missing husband who had wandered away from their home. It was a scary experience and we were all relieved when fortunately our friend's husband was located. 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 your support for SB 2305 SD2 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sinceely, Dan Gardner

Honolulu, HI 96821

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeanette Castillo. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305, SD2, HD1**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My mother who lived in WA, was showing signs of cognitive impairment, but because my siblings and I were not authorized to talk to her doctors, many road blocks got in our way. No matter how much we spoke to my mom, she was in denial. We, tried to stop her from driving, access to her finances, having the doctors talk to us, no luck! It took us two years to finally get have her agree to assign a POA. By, then it was too late and she just got worse. My mom ended up living with my sister, it wasn't easy.

She wandered off many times, but would throw tantrums, when my sister finds her and tries to bring her home. She would find her way to "the boy's house" is what she would say, (my son), when no one was home. Luckily my son has the Ring installed and saw my mom and went home from work.

To give my sister a break, in June 2023 we brought my mom to Hawaii for a vacation. While she was here with me, she wandered off from my home early one morning. By the time we realized she was missing; after calling 911, she was already on her way to Hilo Medical Center. She suffered a broken arm, black eye and several lacerations. Till this day, we have no idea how she sustained those injuries. She didn't remember she fell, why her arm was sore and why she was even at the hospital.

After other incidents, sadly in August 2023, we had her admitted in a Senior Foster Care Home. There she as also tried to leave. The caregiver is patient, has installed extra locks on the doors for her safety.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305,SD2, HD1, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Jeanette Castillo
Pahala, HI

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 10:23:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Webb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Robert Webb, the chair of Maui Self advocacy advisory council , and I strongly support this bill. thank you

3.20.2024

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

To Representative David A Tarnas, Chair; Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair and Committee members.

I am writing in support of HB [SB 2305, SD2, HD1 \(HSCR1119-24\)](#) supporting a Silver Alert system for Hawaii. I work at an agency that supports Adults with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and the primary family caregiver of someone with Alzheimer's Disease. In both instances, I support individuals that need assistance with transportation, crossing the street and navigating the community. Many of the adults that I work with ID need assistance to report their full name, names of family members or what their personal information is.

For my family member that has Alzheimer's Disease she has willingly given up her ability to drive but not until she did get lost. Luckily, she encountered kind and friendly community members that assisted her to drive back to her home safely. Where she lived in Sun City West, Arizona, they did have the Silver Alert Program and it was used quite regularly. I was already in contact with the local police, we were preparing to issue an alert, when thankfully she arrived home. When my aunt was originally diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment, she was still able to complete many tasks and remain very independent. When her physician encouraged her to limit or stop driving, she was not ready to give up this privilege and refused to do so. There are probably many individuals in Hawaii that also struggle with the decision to voluntarily rescind their driving privileges and families that are struggling with the person with dementia to assist them to come to this decision.

I also have had a friend in Wisconsin who reported her husband to the Silver Alert program. There are many highways that a person can get on where you can travel the entire length of the state without having to stop. If a person forgets to get off at their exit they can drive for a long distance out of their way. With everyone having cell phones, my friend's husband was located because someone spotted the license plate to the police and the police were able to pull him over.

Having the Silver Alert program will assist community members and their families to keep people safe.

Mahalo for consideration of this bill.

Anne Hvizdak, BSDH, CDHC
PO Box 375 Eleele, HI 96705
Hvizdak11@gmail.com
715-498-0690

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:59:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia P. Arde and **I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2305, SD2, HD1** which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

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

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

It took days for Home Depot to review its surveillance footage of the store's parking lot, and even more days passed until our HPD detective was able to review the footage. So much valuable time was lost in the first few days that Dad went missing that we really had no chance of finding him. Home Depot surveillance footage showed Dad trying to locate his car in the store's parking lot. He had parked on the lumberyard side of the store, but had exited on the garden side and may have forgotten this fact. The footage shows Dad frantically looking for his car and, not being able to find it, crossing the street to Costco. Costco surveillance footage showed Dad walking through its parking lot and then crossing the street to the Honolulu Star Advertiser building. Thereafter, there is no more footage of Dad anywhere. All of the stores and businesses in the vicinity of Home Depot, Costco, Kapolei Commons and the Star Advertiser did not capture Dad on any of their cameras. HPD informed me that traffic cameras in the vicinity were also not working. We have been at a dead end since Day 1 and have had no clues whatsoever to help find Dad.

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

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

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

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in 10 people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility, all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert program. I hereby respectfully request that SB2305, SD2, HD1 be passed so that other families will not

have to experience what my family is currently going through. Losing a beloved senior family member in this way is nothing short of devastating.

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

Patricia P. Arde
Ewa Beach, Hawaii
patricia.arde77@gmail.com
808/689-1176

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM

RE: SB 2305 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD2 HD1. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.

A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address and can be disoriented, even in familiar places; and 6-10 people with dementia will wander at some point. As the disease progresses individuals with dementia will forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. They may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2503 SD2 HD1` be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui**

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name Calvin Hara and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2 HD1. The bill establishes a silver alert program for Hawaii's kupuna. In my thirty-year career in senior care, I have seen many situations of missing seniors who had wandered from home due to cognitive decline. This situation is a concern for the health and well-being of the senior and the tremendous stress on family at the time of this crisis.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. Hawaii's people need legislation to help this vulnerable population of elders. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 SD2 HD1, be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 3:07:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ronald Tran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wanted to express my support of this bill!

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 3:20:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meagan Ostrem	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Writing today to express support for SB 2305 It is important we as a community are able to care for and support those in our community in times of need. Please pass this important bill to provide the infrastructure for a Silver Alert system.

Mahalo,

Meagan Ostrem

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 6:34:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As our population ages, the risk of elderly individuals going missing or becoming lost increases. Whether due to cognitive decline, medical conditions, or other factors, seniors are particularly vulnerable to becoming disoriented or wandering away from their homes.

The Silver Alert system provides a vital lifeline in these situations, enabling law enforcement agencies to quickly disseminate information about missing seniors to the public. By mobilizing communities to be on the lookout and report any sightings, the Silver Alert greatly enhances the chances of locating missing individuals swiftly and safely.

But beyond the practical benefits of the Silver Alert system, this bill speaks to a broader principle of compassion and care for our elderly population. Our kupuna have dedicated their lives to building our communities, raising families, and contributing to society in countless ways. It is incumbent upon us to honor their legacy and ensure their safety and well-being in their golden years.

By supporting the Silver Alert for Missing Persons Bill, we affirm our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us and upholding the values of empathy, solidarity, and respect for our elders. We send a clear message that every life is precious and deserving of our utmost efforts to ensure their safety and security.

I urge each of you to vote in favor of this bill and to stand in solidarity with our elderly population and their families. Together, we can build a society where every senior can age with dignity, security, and peace of mind.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 8:29:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

i am in strong support of this measure beacuse it's important for other people to find the individual with people with disability want missing please pass this bill thank you.

SB-2305-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 11:27:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Poki'I Balaz, and I am the clinician and family caregiver. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305, SD2, HD1**. 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 to notify anyone, and I felt constant worry about 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 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawai'i is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305,SD2, HD1, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Dr. Poki'i Balaz

'Aiea, HI