

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 2552  
RELATING TO DEMENTIA  
Before the Senate Committees on  
Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
and  
Health and Human Services  
Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference  
Testifiers: Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) submits the following **comments** on Senate Bill 2552.

Pursuant to section 52D-1, HRS, ". . . the powers, duties, and functions of each police commission shall be prescribed by the charter of each county." It is unclear whether this chapter is the appropriate vehicle for the training requirements of this bill, but to avoid any potential unforeseen conflicts the DLE is recommending that this committee amend SB 2345 to move the goals of this bill forward.

As we stated in our testimony on SB 2345 earlier, the law enforcement goals of this bill are significant to all sectors of our community. Courts and legislative bodies have made it clear that our law enforcement officers are required to take a closer look when they arrive on scene, if they can safely do so, with the goal of better understanding any interaction, encounter, or response for the purpose of helping those who may be in crisis, suffering from some form of crisis or impairment whether physical,

developmental, cognitive, psychological, mental health, or substance disorder influencing their behavior. When they can safely do so, officers do their best to look at the entire picture of the encounter when formulating what action needs to be taken.

Training like this is a vital component to safe community-oriented policing, but this bill should be included in the training and efforts of law enforcement to address crisis intervention which includes the area of need contemplated by this bill. .

We are recommending that this measure be deferred and SB 2345 be amended by amending SECTION 3 of SB 2345 to read as follows:

SECTION 3. Section 334-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Crisis intervention officer" means a law enforcement officer who has been trained to recognize and communicate with a person in crisis or suffering from some form of impairment whether from dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, or any physical, developmental, cognitive, psychological, or substance disorder influencing their behavior and certified by the department of health as a specialized first responder for calls involving persons in crisis."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this bill.



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

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

**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR  
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

Fax  
(808) 586-0185

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2552**  
**RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

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

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

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

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

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) strongly supports the intent of this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes mandatory dementia training within the Department of
- 5 Law Enforcement to help law enforcement officers recognize the signs of Alzheimer's disease
- 6 and related dementias (ADRD) and utilize best practice for interacting with persons living with
- 7 ADRD. Hawaii is number 1 in life expectancy at 80.7 years of age. 1 in 4 individuals are over the

1 age of 60. 27.8% of older adults live with a disability and in 2020, an estimated 29,000 elders  
2 are living with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025, the number of people living with Alzheimer's  
3 disease in Hawai'i is expected to rise to 35,000, a more than 20 percent increase from 2020.  
4 As those living in our community with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, it is important  
5 to understand the signs and deploy techniques for interacting with these individuals.  
6 **Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of  
7 Law Enforcement for implementation.  
8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

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

Dear Senator Buenaventura and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2552 RELATING TO DEMENTIA

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2552**, which requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. Requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

The Council recognizes the importance of enhancing law enforcement's ability to recognize and respond effectively to Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. This legislative initiative requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop training materials specifically focused on the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. By mandating that law enforcement officers review these materials for at least 1 hour per year, the bill seeks to ensure that our law enforcement professionals are adequately equipped to respond to situations involving individuals affected by dementia.

The Council's support for SB2552 emphasizes the importance of providing law enforcement officers with the knowledge and tools necessary to approach interactions with individuals experiencing cognitive challenges. This measure aligns with the broader commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive community for all residents, including those affected by dementia.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2552**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

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

To: Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and  
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Health and Human Services  
Re: SB 2552, Relating to Dementia

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

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

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

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 2552** which will require law enforcement training to recognize key signs of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and utilize best practices for interaction with persons with dementia or intervention in situations in which persons with dementia may be at risk.

The Alzheimer's Association estimated that there were 29,000 kupuna living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i in 2020. By next year, 2025, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is anticipated to rise to 35,000 older adults; this number does not include other types of dementia and the many individuals who may be undiagnosed.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Alzheimer's Association, individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementia may experience mood and personality changes and become confused, suspicious, fearful, and be easily upset; may demonstrate poor judgement and decision-making; may have difficulty having a conversation.<sup>2</sup>

"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."<sup>3</sup>

For these reasons, I request that SB 2552 be passed. Mahalo!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/10\\_signs](https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/10_signs)

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



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

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

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

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

#### Re: Testimony on SB2552 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

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

UPW **supports** SB2552, which requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. This bill also requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least one hour per year.

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

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#### 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

UPW believes that dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease, and such training ensures our State can protect these individuals and the families who care for them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kalani Werner  
State Director

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**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

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

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2552 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA.**

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2552, RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

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 require the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia, and require law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least one hour per year.

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 6<sup>th</sup> leading of death among US adults; and
- The 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults aged 65 years or older.

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

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2552**  
**Friday, February 2, 2024; 3:00 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

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

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

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

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

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

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:42:33 PM

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

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

Comments:

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



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

Re: SB 2552 Relating to Dementia

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

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

The **Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2552**, which requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia and requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least one hour per year.

As the number of dementia cases continues to increase statewide, the need for law enforcement officers who are well trained to provide appropriate, competent, and sensitive direct care and support for patients suffering from dementia is great.

Dementia training is a good practice based on good public policy (mitigating the disease burden).

We urge you to support dementia training for law enforcement officers and SB 2552, 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](mailto:gsimon@aarp.org)

## 2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

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*President  
Becker Communications*

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

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

## the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

### RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2552 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 2552.**

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

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is projected to increase to over 36,000 by next year. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would require the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. **Law enforcement officers must review these materials annually for an hour at no cost.** The training, at minimum, must include the following: (1) strategies for recognizing the key signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia; (2) strategies for assessing cognition; (3) best practices for interacting with persons living with the disease; and (4) strategies to best identify and intervene in situations where the persons may be at particular risk of abuse or neglect. These foundational elements allow law enforcement officers to communicate effectively with those with the disease in our communities.

**We ask you to pass Senate Bill No. 2552.** The “Silver Tsunami” is upon us. Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals now and in the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact Ron Shimabuku at 808.451.3410 or [rkshimabuku@alz.org](mailto:rkshimabuku@alz.org).



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



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

SB 2552 RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

By Glen Higa, President  
Hawaii Parkinson Association

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

The Hawaii Parkinson Association strongly supports SB 2552, which requires law enforcement officers to annually review dementia training material.

Parkinson's Disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disease and, while categorized as a movement disorder, the disease includes many non-motor symptoms. Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing neurological diseases, with someone in the US diagnosed every six minutes. Hawaii's approximately 8,000 diagnosed is expected to double by 2030. 80% of those diagnosed will also suffer from cognitive impairment or dementia.

In Hawaii, we take care of our kupuna and it is vitally important that we have a system in place to keep them safe. Annual dementia training for law enforcement officers is a simple but cost-effective way to address the anticipated growing prevalence of the disease in Hawaii. We strongly urge the Committees to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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*The Hawaii Parkinson Association is a local all-volunteer nonprofit organization and was established in 1996. The Association's primary mission is to positively impact the lives of those affected by Parkinson's Disease through support, education, programs, and other services.*



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
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**The State Legislature**  
**Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**February, February 2, 2024**  
**Conference Room 225, 3:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i  
RE: Support for S.B. 2552 Relating to Dementia

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

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

**AARP Supports S.B. 2552** which requires the law enforcement board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia.

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. Law enforcement officers may often be the first responder to encounter a missing person with dementia. Unfortunately, people with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Law enforcement officers may not know how to work with people in these situations — leading to more confusion. Therefore, requiring dementia training for law enforcement officers benefits both parties. Being educated of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia as well as the safety of the law enforcement officers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 2552.



Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

**Testimony on S.B. No. 2552, A Bill for an Act Relating to Dementia**

Gerrilin Claire Deliquina Quejado

gquejado@hawaii.edu

Aloha, Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Gerrilin Quejado. I have a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Guam. I am a distance learning student in my final semester of the master's program in Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 2552, a bill for an act relating to dementia.

Families and caregivers face numerous difficulties when caring for a loved one who has dementia. The progressive biological brain malfunction that causes dementia in people with disorders like Alzheimer's and similar diseases makes it harder and harder for them to recall things, think effectively, interact with others, and take care of themselves. As a former caregiver of a loved one who was diagnosed with Dementia, but didn't know the signs leading up to the disease was very difficult. It would've been helpful if programs or training materials were accessible to learn how to properly take care of my loved one and understand persons with dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

With six million Americans affected, the majority of whom are 65 or older, Alzheimer's disease is currently the 7th leading cause of death in the United States (National Institute on Aging, 2023). According to Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations (2018), "as their disease progresses, people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias generally receive more care from family members, unpaid caregivers, and community-based and residential care providers", which often continues the cycle of insufficient basic caretaking (Fazio, et al., 2023, p. 1).

The experience of the person with dementia and their caregivers can be enhanced by a professional, educated, and trained workforce or program at every stage of the dementia pathway, from diagnosis care, and treatment to quality of life and death. The need for better care and support systems is one of the main reasons dementia awareness is so important. As more individuals become aware of the variation of dementia, its signs, and how it progresses, caregivers and medical professionals will be able to better customize their support. We can design spaces that support comfort, safety, and dignity by taking into account the unique needs of people who are suffering from dementia.

Lastly, if this bill were to pass it would provide opportunities for individuals who will be an effective caretaker to loved ones with dementia. The goal of increasing awareness is to make people aware that dementia is a serious medical illness that requires understanding, compassion, and the right kind of treatment rather than being a normal part of aging. The general well-being of people with dementia is greatly improved when they are treated with decency and respect.

I urge all members of the Legislature of Hawaii to support S.B. No. 2552, a bill for an act relating to dementia, all together promoting proper care with persons with dementia and enhancing their quality of life.

Sincerely,  
Gerrilin Claire Deliquina Quejado

***References***

Fazio, S., Pace, D., Maslow, K., & Zimmerman, S. (2018, January 18). Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations. *58*(suppl\_1), S1-S9.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx182>

National Institute on Aging. (2023, April 5). *Alzheimer's Disease Fact Sheet*. National Institutes of Health. Retrieved July 17, 2023, from

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/alzheimers-disease-fact-sheet>

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:35:11 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Calvin Hara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Calvin Hara and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2552. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

In my background of thirty years in senior care communities, I have seen situations where with a person with dementia encounters a law enforcement officer, and, at times, the officer could have exercised greater compassion to the person with dementia. Dementia training can benefit officers and the community-at-large.

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.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I request that SB 2552 be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii

cmhara@comcast.net

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 12:16:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo!

Cindy Aban

Waipahu, HI  
Email: [caban54@gmail.com](mailto:caban54@gmail.com)

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 7:59:59 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Wyatt	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

My name is Kathy Wyatt and I am the President of Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i, an Adult Day Care group that cares for kupuna living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. I am in strong support of SB2552, which ensures that law enforcement officers across Hawai`i have the training they need to effectively engage with those people suffering with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Because people with Alzheimer's and other dementias sometimes act aggressively or are not cooperative, law enforcement officers may see them as a threat. With the proper training, they will understand that it's not the person but the disease that is reacting to them and they need to recognize that.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease in Hawai`i and ensure that we are able to protect these individuals. I request that SB2552 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kathy Wyatt

Waipahu, HI

kwyatt01@aol.com

808-292-4665

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 9:15:48 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nancy Rose, and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2552. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

My father lived through a 10-15 year decline into some form of dementia; I don’t think he was ever properly diagnosed. On more than one occasion police were called to his residence with his care-giver wife (my step mother) because of his disruptive behavior toward a neighbor. As his disease progressed he also became violent toward his wife, which also involved police. I’d like to know that our police are receiving training to recognize these behaviors and respond with compassion and care for everyone involved.

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.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I request that SB 2552 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii

808-264-2663

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 10:30:46 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I and my wife are strong supporters of SB 2552 that would require the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. It then would require law enforcement officers to review these training materials for at least 1 hour per year. Given the rapidly growing number of kapuna with either Alzheimer's disease or types of dementia it is very important that enforcement officers receive this training on an annual basis. It will help reduce the serious outcomes that result from their not recognizing and properly dealing with the unique problem they are having to deal with.

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



**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:46:43 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support SB2552.

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:48:18 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joseph burr	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I would like to extend my full support for SB2552 relative to mandatory training for law enforcement personnel that may come in contact either with an individual impacted directly by alzheimers and/or other dementia related conditions.

In addition to training relative to the interaction with those impacted, I firmly believe the training should be expanded to include training for interactions(s) with the families of those impacted by these conditions.

As the brother of an island resident whose alzheimers ultimately contributed to his untimely death, the family at times is left to feel isolated and uninformed just as the dementia patient himself. I feel strongly that training on this subject would allow law enforcement to better communicate and offer a degree of solace to the families of those suffering. As it stands at this time, the family is left uninformed and in the cold relative to search activities and initiatives looking for those patients that are "wandering"

Again, it is imperative that this bill be passed and mandated for all law enforcement in an effort to protect those impacted by this horrible condition.

**LATE**

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 4:17:10 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faith F. Ichida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

dear Chairmen Glenn Sakai and Joy San Buenaventura and Vice Chairmen Brandon Elefante and He ry Aquino.

My name is Faith F. Ichida and I strongly support the SB 2305 Silver Alert for missing persons and SB 2552 on Dementia persons being treated when found by law enforcement personnel. It is important to find these persons on both bills and that they are treated humanely.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

**LATE**

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 2, 2024

S.B. 2552 — RELATING TO DEMENTIA

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2552, which requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia and requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2552.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**LATE**



February 2, 2024

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

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**SB2552 - RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 2552, which requires appropriate training for law enforcement officers to prepare them to engage with persons living with dementia and Alzheimer's.

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 as proper training by law enforcement personnel can make a significant difference in addressing the growing number of people in Hawai'i who suffer from impaired cognition and diseases like dementia and Alzheimer's. Training can help law enforcement personnel better identify signs of dementia and better respond to anxiety, fear, and hostile behaviors. Many of our members have family who are directly affected by dementia.

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

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.

**LATE**

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2552**

**RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

**Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm**

**Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

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

My name is Ohad Amidor, and I am a social work student at UH Manoa. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2552. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

My grandmother-in-law has Alzheimer's disease, and she is at risk of wandering. She can get scared and might be afraid if she encounter strangers. As she is confused and can experience different emotional states, law enforcement individuals must know how to engage her so the situation will not escalet and that they can help her.

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.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I request that SB 2552 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor

Haiku, HI

Amidor@hawaii.edu

**LATE**

**SB-2552**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 8:02:05 AM

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

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

Comments:

## **Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2552**

### **RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

**Friday, February 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm**

**Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

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

My name is Melissa C Bojorquez, and I am previous caregiver of my mother who suffered from dementia for 10 plus years and a social worker and health consultant for over 35 years, I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2552. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

As a long time social worker, case manager, health care executive and consultant serving our island community and my family, I have observed our aging population and the impact that this

long disease process of Alzheimers and Dementia Related Disorders has on families, (having been a caregiver for my mother for over 10 years). I believe that it is critical, that at minimum, the 1 hour training be required for our law enforcement workforce - inorder for sensitivity, knowledgeable and compassionate response to those who suffer from this illness.

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.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I request that SB 2552 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Melissa C Bojorquez

Pearl City, Hawaii