



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 22, 2024

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
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: SCR 137/SR118 REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP A NORWEGIAN-BASED PUBLIC FACILITY MODEL DESIGNATED TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF DEMENTIA PATIENTS.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities respectfully submits **comments on SCR137/SR118** which is requesting the convening of a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of dementia patients.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the legislature's concern for the care of dementia patients, we would like to express that convening a task force is not necessary at this time.

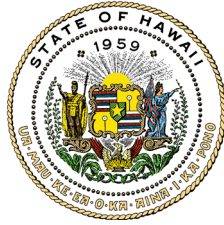
The State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) is already in place, and the ADRD Services Coordinator, in collaboration with community organizations and coalition partners, is actively engaged in implementing this plan. They are currently in the first year of implementation, focusing on building a robust infrastructure to support individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia and their caregivers.

As part of this strategic plan, action teams have been formed to address various aspects of dementia care, including reviewing innovative models such as the Norwegian-based dementia village. Specifically, the "Program and Policy Change" team is tasked with exploring the feasibility of implementing such models in Hawai'i. Henceforth, a taskforce is not necessary.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide **comments on SCR137/SR118** and assure you of our commitment to improving dementia care in our state.

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
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CAROLINE CADIRAO
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR137/SR118
REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP A NORWEGIAN-BASED
PUBLIC FACILITY MODEL DESIGNATED TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF
DEMENTIA PATIENTS.**

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

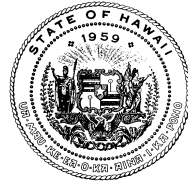
Hearing: Friday, March 22, 2024, 1:00 P.M Conference Room 225

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) provides comments on SCR137/SR118.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution is requesting that a task force be convened to
- 5 develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and
- 6 safety of dementia patients. EOA appreciates the legislature in understanding the importance
- 7 of caring for dementia patients. However, convening a task force is not necessary. EOA has a
- 8 State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. The ADRD Services

1 Coordinator is collaborating with community organizations and coalition partners are in year
2 one of implementing the Plan to build a strong infrastructure to support individuals with
3 Alzheimer's and dementia and their caregivers. Action teams have been formed to plan and
4 implement strategies and action items that align with four public health domains: 1) Data; 2)
5 Program and Policy Change; 3) Public Awareness and Education; and 4) Workforce
6 Development. The "Program and Policy Change" team can review the Norwegian-based model
7 of dementia village and explore how feasible it would be to implement in Hawai'i.

8 **Recommendation:** EOA does not see the need for a taskforce as the work to review the
9 Norwegian based model of dementia village can be accomplished as part of the ongoing work
10 of EOA as we implement the 2035 State Plan on ADRD.

11 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 of Tia L.R. Hartsock
Director, Office of Wellness and Resilience**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, March 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**S.C.R. No. 137 , Requesting that a task force be convened to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of dementia patients.
Comments**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR), housed in the Office of the Governor, appreciates the resolution's intent, provides comments, and defers to the Department of Health.

This resolution requests the Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience, the Director of the Department of Health, and a representative from AARP Hawaii to serve on a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of dementia patients.

OWR appreciates the legislature's interest in strategies to address the well-being and safety of dementia patients. Dementia affects more than 55 million people worldwide and is expected to triple by 2050.¹ Additionally, dementia poses significant challenges to individuals and families. OWR recognizes the Norwegian Carpe Diem Dementia Village as an approach that addresses dementia patients physical, emotional, and social well-being in a trauma-informed way. Creating a safe-space for dementia patients in which individual needs can also be addressed, while also offering dementia patients choice in how they can move around daily aligns with key principles Trauma-Informed approach of "Empowerment" and "Safety". Empowerment within a trauma-informed framework emphasizes respecting individuals' autonomy and agency, recognizing their strengths, and involving them in decision-making processes. Implementing dementia villages with an emphasis on empowerment ensures that individuals living with dementia maintain dignity, autonomy, and decision-making abilities to the greatest extent possible.

OWR also recognizes that Chapter 349 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes which establishes the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) within the Department of Health as the focal point for all matters relating to older adults' needs and the coordination and development of caregiver support services within the State of Hawai'i. EOA has a State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and is convening workgroups to implement the strategies and action items of the plan. Therefore, OWR defers to the EOA and the State Plan on ADRD.

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

¹ Phillips, Bernadette. "Montessori Elder and Dementia Care, and Trauma-Informed Approaches: A Thematic Analysis Examining Connections Between the Models." *Journal of Montessori Research* 9.2 (2023).

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*Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association*

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Friday, March 22, 2024; 1:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

LATE

**RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 137 / SENATE RESOLUTION 118 – REQUESTING
THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP A NORWEGIAN-BASED PUBLIC FACILITY
MODEL DESIGNATED TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF DEMENTIA
PATIENTS.**

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, 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 related dementias (ADRD) by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137 / SENATE RESOLUTION 118.

This resolution, as received by your Committee, would create a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of dementia patients. The task force is requested to consist of the following members: (1) the Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience, (2) the Director of Health, and (3) a representative from AARP Hawaii. The task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2025.

In September 2023, the [Hawaii 2035 State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias](#) was released. This is a culmination of work and feedback from various community partners and stakeholders led by the Hawaii Department of Health's Executive Office on Aging (EOA). It sets a framework to address the needs of caregivers and those living with ADRD. It also establishes working groups to carry out the activities contained therein. We believe these groups could be an avenue to discuss and assess the Norwegian-based public facility model referenced in this proposal.

We applaud the legislature for continuing to recognize the significance of ADRD in Hawaii, especially when it involves wandering.

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



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The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, March 22, 2024
Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.

LATE

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
RE: SCR 137/SR 118 – Convening a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model for dementia patients

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP supports the intent of convening a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of dementia patients. 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, and there is urgency to explore different models and trends to address their care and needs. AARP Hawaii is encouraged by the different planning and coordination efforts led by the State and community to build a robust infrastructure that will support individuals with Alzheimer's and other-related dementia and their caregivers. For example, the State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) is already in place and the ADRD Services Coordinator is working with different partners and organizations to tackle the multi-facets of the infrastructure ranging from work force development to dementia caregiving. There is a bill (HB 2224) currently being considered by the legislature for long term care planning. If passed, this measure will task the State Executive Office on Aging to develop a comprehensive long term care plan that incorporates best practices and innovative models of care in the community. AARP appreciates all these efforts and recommends that the work from these agencies and community working groups be coordinated and complementary. AARP Hawaii stands ready to participate and assist where we may be of service.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on SCR 137/SR 118.