



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

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

Dear Representative Lisa Marten and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: HB1773 RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1773**, which amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplemental security income or public assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

The Council supports efforts to further the knowledge of our local police officers when engaging with vulnerable populations. Many lessons learned on how to work with or speak to an individual with dementia also apply to the behavioral challenges that individuals with developmental disabilities present. A more educated and understanding police force makes for a safer community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1773**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

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 HOUSE BILL 1773

RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Before the House Committee on Human Services

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

State Capitol Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Jordan Lowe, Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) submits the following **comments** on House Bill 1774.

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.

The DLE recommends deferral of this measure and supporting HB 2250 which establishes trained crisis intervention officers within state and county law enforcement agencies and addresses crisis intervention training for all law enforcement officers and

departments state-wide. To accomplish this, we are recommending that SECTION 3 of HB2250 be amended 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 testify in support of 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

**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

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1773**  
**RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 9:00 A.M., Conference Room 329

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) strongly supports the intent of this measure and defers to the Department of Law
- 3 Enforcement.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes mandatory dementia training within the Department of
- 6 Law Enforcement to help law enforcement officers recognize the signs of Alzheimer's disease
- 7 and related dementias (ADRD) and utilize best practice for interacting with persons living with
- 8 ADRD. Hawaii is number 1 in life expectancy at 80.7 years of age. 1 in 4 individuals are over the
- 9 age of 60. 27.8% of older adults live with a disability and in 2020, an estimated 29,000 elders

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



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

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

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

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

**Re: Testimony on HB1773 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

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

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

UPW **supports** HB1773, 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 progress. As a result, there may be cases of false reports related to victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

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.

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**HEADQUARTERS**

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Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336  
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**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1773 – 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** House Bill No. 1774, 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 House Bill No. 1773**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

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

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

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

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

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



January 27, 2024

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

Re: SUPPORT of HB1773 - Relating to Dementia (Law Enforcement Training)

Hrg: Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024, 9:00 AM

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA supports HB 1773 as the bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia 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 critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals.

HPHA strongly supports HB 1773 and respectfully asks that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director

## 2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

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Hawaii Building and  
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Commerce*

Cary Tanaka  
*Past President  
Island Insurance  
Companies*

Caroline Witherspoon  
*President  
Becker Communications*

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

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

### RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1773 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

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

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill No. 1773.**

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 House Bill No. 1773.** 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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**The State Legislature**  
**House Committee on Human Services**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**  
**Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i  
RE: Support for H.B. 1773 Relating to Dementia

Aloha Chair Marten and Members of the Committee:

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

**AARP Supports H.B. 1773** 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 H.B. 1773.



January 30, 2024

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

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**HB 1773 - RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** HB 1773, 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.



Papa Ola Lokahi  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: 808.597.6550  
[www.papaolalokahi.org](http://www.papaolalokahi.org)

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

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

**RE: HB 1773 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

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

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies **in support** of HB 1773, which sets an educational requirement on dementia for law enforcement officers. People with dementia may wander and be unable to provide basic identifying information such as name or address. We support efforts that increase the ability of law enforcement officers to identify and help community members with dementia, who may be or become anxious or upset if they are wandering.

The education of law enforcement officers to increase safe engagements with people with dementia is key, as the role of first responders is critical. Efforts such as HB 1773 may serve as a helpful foundation to examine if there are additional dementia training needs in the state workforce.

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.*



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 30, 2024

H.B. 1773 — RELATING TO DEMENTIA

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B.1773, 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 H.B. 1773.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



## HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD

State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public

Defender

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a

Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health

Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free

Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2024

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

Re: Support for HB1773 Relating to Dementia

Mtg: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **Support of HB1773**, which would require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

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.<sup>ii</sup>

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.

Through education, law enforcement officers will be better equipped to help these individuals when there is a need. It is a way that our community can come together to support those with dementia and their caregivers. No one should be expected to work alone when it comes to caregiving, 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 communities. And thank this committee for this opportunity to

submit supportive testimony for HB1773. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Mierzwa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Peggy Mierzwa  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
Hawaii Public Health Institute

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Data/Sites/1/media/HADSSP/booklet-state-plan-drd-3-23-web.rev102323.pdf>

**LATE**

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:34:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	Kapalama Neighborhood Security Watch	Comments	In Person

Comments:

**LATE**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

Kapalama NSW wishes to comment.

This bill would require law enforcement such as HPD officers to be trained to respond to those suffering from Dementia. Dementia effects the ability to remember, think, or make decisions that interferes with doing everyday activities. Alzheimer’s is the most common sort of dementia.

As Honolulu Police Department has to respond to all sorts of situations. Officers are the main response to homelessness. To be culturally sensitive and medically sensitive, officers should be prepared. And it may not be necessary to task the law enforcement standards board with this, through community outreach, you can find that there are nonprofits and community organizations to help train officers.

[Crisis Response Intervention](#)

From the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a branch of the Department of Justice, is a training program called “Crisis Response and Intervention Training for Police Officers”.

With the support of the office, the Academic Training Initiative to Inform Police Responses developed the Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT), a 40-hour training curriculum designed to prepare police officers in the response to those experiencing crises related to behavioral health conditions and intellectual and developmental disabilities. CRIT is a curriculum that can be customized to local needs and is available online. Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center did this program with HPD.

This can be replicated for this bill.

Blessings,

CARES

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 6:26:43 PM

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

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

Comments:

As with HB 1774 I think this is very necessary and will elaborate based upon a personal experience.

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

To: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair  
Re: HB 1773, Relating to Dementia

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

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

I am a director 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 HB 1773** 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 HB 1773 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/>

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:44:16 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rick Tabor	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1773**

**RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am**

Thank you, 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 and son of a mother in stage 4 Dementia on Comfort Care. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year, in hopes of increasing their awareness of best intervention practices with individuals living with dementia issues.

I've seen, first hand, how effective this training has been in Seattle/King County Washington State. Where I participated in Seattle Mental Health's contributions to the development and implementation of this training for First Responders. Our Community Network Program developed film skits for officers to watch as part of the training. This training followed a series of horrific First Responder intervention fatalities. Our County training included, mental illness, developmental disabilities and dementia. I'm available to share more information upon request. I'll note, First Responders thanked us for the trainings and our partnerships were incredible.

My mother, like some Dementia diagnosed, has had periods of acting out physically, name calling, wandering, getting lost and falls with broken bones. She's very stubborn and has to do things her way, at her pace, if she's alert. Otherwise, we just make her comfortable and keep her company.

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 HB 1773 be heard and passed. The sooner we start, the better for everyone.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rick Tabor, MS, LMHC, CDDS

For the record this year's full time retirement activities include; Hawaii Meals on Wheels (HMoW) Board of Directors President

Bobby Benson Center, Board of Directors President

Kokua Counsel, 1st Vice President

Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society (HPGS) Past President, Certified Hawaii Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Rotary Club of Honolulu, Board of Directors, PABEA (Policy Advisory Board of Elderly Affairs, Honolulu Committee on Aging, Alzheimer's Association Champion, Honpo Hongwanji Board of Directors Adviser & Legislative Directors Committee, and a few other adventures. For this testimony, I represent myself.

Place of Residence; 232 Koalele Street, Honolulu, HI 96813, [rtabor12@twc.com](mailto:rtabor12@twc.com) 808.285.5936

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:19:01 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of this bill, but I feel that we are overburdening the police officers with duties that are not theirs to solve. While I believe that police officers should be held to a higher standard than other citizens, and that includes having them subjected to more training like the bill advises, I think the legislative would find more success in building more community programs dedicated to serving those mentally ill rather than hoping the police can magically solve this problem. That being said, I think that the police should have this kind of training implemented during their basic training and not have it limited to just those with Alzheimer's and Dementia but also those who have suffered from psychotic breaks, schizophrenia, and other mental illnesses. Going further, have more than one hour per year, make it 10, and have it stated that if they come short from this training, find some way to suspend the officer until they can prove that they can deal with a person in distress. This kind of issue cannot be solved with a one-hour seminar. It demands interacting with the community and treating people and their problems with dignity and respect. And if that is too much for an officer, they have no business wearing a badge.

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 11:03:27 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 1773

RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Cynthia Au. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1773. The bill aims to require law enforcement officers to review dementia training materials for at least 1 hour per year.

Those who have alzheimer's may be confused or disoriented when they are having an episode, they may feel scared. It takes special care for those who may interact with someone lost and confused. I hope that police who may interact with individuals know how to interact appropriately.

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

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the growing prevalence of the disease and ensure our state is dementia capable of protecting these individuals. I request that HB 1773 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Cynthia Au

Honolulu, HI 96814

shakababa808@gmail.com

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:59:52 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Calvin Hara and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

In my thirty years of experience in senior care and as a family caregiver, I have personally seen the stress and worry of knowing a loved one is missing due to wandering behavior from his/her cognitive condition.

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. Please consider the passing of HB 1774. Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii

cmhara@comcast.net

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1773**

**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9:00 am**

**Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

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

My name is Glen Higa, and I am the President of the Hawaii Parkinson Association. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1773. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing neurological diseases, with someone in the US diagnosed every 6 minutes. Hawaii's approximately 8,000 diagnosed, is expected to double by 2030. Many of them will also suffer from cognitive impairment or dementia.

In Hawaii, we take care of our kupuna and it's vitally important that we have a system in place to help keep them safe. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized system in place. I request that HB 1773 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

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

**LATE**

**LATE**

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB 1773 - 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.

My grandmother had started to develop dementia shortly after my grandfathers passing in 2019. Through the development of her dementia, there were days marked by positivity, and there were days marked by challenges. During difficult times, she would scream, throw objects, bite, and and say some vile things. If I had not understood alzheimer's and dementia, I would have seen her actions and behaviors as violent and insulting.

Individuals with dementia may exhibit unpredictable behaviors due to confusion or fear, not out of spite. Training equips law enforcement officers with the knowledge to handle situations safely, minimizing the risk of harm to both the individual with dementia and the officers themselves. Without proper training, it is easy to misinterpret behaviors associated with dementia as suspicious or non-compliant. Training helps law enforcement officers understand that certain actions may be a result of cognitive impairment rather than intentional defiance.

According to the Alzheimer's Association: 29,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's and 60,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in Hawaii alone. Mandating training will contribute to building trust between law enforcement and the community, especially when dealing with sensitive situations involving individuals with cognitive impairments.

These individuals are not just some random nobody. These individuals are our tutus, our aunties, our uncles, our cousins, and our friends. We have the information here and ready. Please do not turn a blind eye on this overlooked population.

Thank you for your time,  
Rachelle Kozuma

**HB-1773**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:40:53 AM

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

**LATE** **LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph burr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Joseph Burr and I am the brother of a recently deceased dementia patient whose wandering allowed him to slip through the cracks of the system for the management of dementia patients in Hawaii that perhaps the minimum of 1 hour per annum dementia training for law enforcement may have closed the gaps in that system.

As stated, during the next year, the number of people living with dementia will rise to 36,000 persons and it is estimated that 60% of those persons may wander at some point.

Often, the impact of dementia may appear as anxiety, fear or even hostility, all of which can escalate if misread into a confrontational or aggressive behavior.

Dementia training for law enforcement officers is critical to meet the increase in numbers of dementia patients and I am supporting and requesting approval of HB 1773.

Thank you