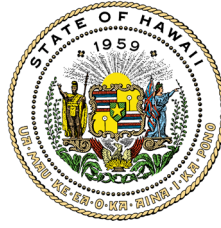


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'

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



**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR

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 COMMENTING on HB 278, HD1 SD1**  
**Relating to Health**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: April 4, 2023  
10:30 AM

Room Number: 211  
Via Videoconference

**EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, supports the intent of HB 278, HD1 SD1, Relating to Health, and provides the following comments.

**Fiscal Implications:** This measure requests an appropriation for FY 2023-2024 to the Executive Office on Aging for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias public health campaign.

**Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to create a public health campaign for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

The public awareness campaign will educate the public about: 1) the early signs of cognitive impairment; 2) the value of early detection and diagnosis; and 3) discussing changes in memory and thinking with health care professionals.

We believe \$500,000 to create and implement a public health awareness campaign would be adequate. Additionally, we feel that the purpose of the public health campaign can be incorporated into the EOA's ongoing work on the 2035 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias State Plan.

**Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request.

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

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB278 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB278 HD1 SD1**, which appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

The onset of Alzheimer's and dementia related disease is projected to rise in the state of Hawaii. Among the individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) population, specifically those with down syndrome, the likelihood for developing Alzheimer's disease is further exacerbated. Not only is the I/DD population more susceptible to Alzheimer's, but also at a greater risk of developing the disease 10 years prior to that experienced by the general population.

HB278 HD1 SD1 acknowledges the forthcoming challenges associated with the rising rate of Alzheimer's disease. By increasing Alzheimer's disease awareness across the state, the general public is likely to better understand its perils and aid in the recognition of early signs of cognitive impairment. In return, this would enhance the allocation of valuable medical resources and health care support systems not only to the I/DD population, but to all of those at risk for the disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB278 HD1 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

## 2023 Hawaii Leadership Board

Lori McCarney, Chair  
*Community Advocate*

Dr. Pokii Balaz, Immediate  
Past Chair  
*Lunalilo Home  
Kokua Kalihi Valley*

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

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

Stafford Kiguchi  
*Executive Vice President  
Bank of Hawaii  
retired*

Travis Kikuchi  
*Vice President and  
Business Development and  
Investment Officer  
First Hawaiian Bank*

Kai Ohashi  
*Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones*

Michael Robinson  
*Vice President  
Hawaii Pacific Health*

Kimberly Soares  
*Vice President  
Atlas Insurance*

Gino Soquena  
*Executive Director  
Hawaii Building and  
Construction Trade Council*

Gordon Takaki  
*Past President  
Hawaii Island Chamber of  
Commerce*

Caroline Witherspoon  
*President  
Becker Communications*

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

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Tuesday, April 4, 2023; 10:30 a.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211, and Videoconference

### RE: House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the  
Committee:

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's  
Association. We are testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1  
Senate Draft 1, and offer amendments for your consideration.**

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. By 2025, this figure is  
projected to increase by 20.7%. In addition, many are experiencing subjective cognitive  
decline — one of the earliest warning signs of future dementia. In 2020, 6.7% of  
individuals aged 45 and over reported increased confusion or worsening memory loss,  
putting them at risk of later developing dementia. More than two-thirds have not talked  
to their healthcare professional about it.

New FDA-approved therapies are here, and more are on the horizon, which may allow  
people more time to participate in daily activities, remain independent, and decide on the  
future of their health. These treatments are beneficial at the early onset of the disease;  
therefore, early detection and diagnosis are critical. Educating the community at large is  
paramount to prevention, health management, and equitable access to FDA-approved  
treatments that may prevent or delay disease.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate out of the general revenues of  
the State of Hawaii the sum of a blank amount or so much thereof for the fiscal year  
2023-2024 for the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to create an Alzheimer's disease and  
related dementias public health campaign to educate the public on: (1) the early signs of  
cognitive impairment; (2) the value of early detection and diagnosis; and (3) the  
importance of discussing with healthcare professionals any change in memory and  
thinking. This shall take effect upon its approval.

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

In 2020, the EOA received the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Program Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). An area of opportunity identified in this grant is the need for general public education and awareness of the disease. Although broad in nature from this bill, we anticipate that the resources and messaging are relative.

Additionally, we have obtained preliminary cost estimates from marketing and communication firms in Hawaii to produce and deliver this public health campaign. This would include print, digital, market research and analysis, creative design, television, radio, and frequently visited public space purchases. These estimates range from \$555,000 to \$1,500,000.

**We ask for your consideration to appropriate \$1,000,000 and extend it for multiple fiscal years to allow EOA to complement this with the BOLD award. With these amendments, the Alzheimer's Association strongly urges your favorable consideration of this bill.**

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



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)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
Conference Room 211, 10:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
RE: Support for H.B. 278, HD1, SD1 Relating to Alzheimer's Disease

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

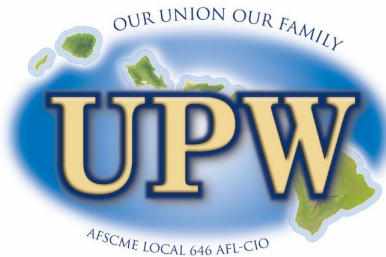
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the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

**AARP supports H.B. 278, HD1, SD1** which seeks to implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

According to AARP Research Alzheimer Disease Awareness Poll in 2018, nearly everyone knew the seriousness of Alzheimer's disease and most knew someone who has had Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia causing cognitive decline; however, awareness of key characteristics and resources was still relatively low and remains the same today. H.B. 278, HD1 will launch a public health campaign that educates the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support for **H.B. 278, HD1, SD1**.

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López  
State Director



**THE SENATE  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM  
Conference Room 211 & via Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB278, HD1, SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW supports HB278, HD1, SD1 which establishes appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

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. UPW firmly believes in the value of early detection and diagnosis of these and other diseases. Such efforts can help to mitigate the severity of the illness and allow our working families to better understand what to expect in caring for their loved ones. Increasing awareness through a public health campaign could change the course of this disease.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Kalani Werner".

Kalani Werner  
State Director



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023; 10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol; Conference Room 211  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0278, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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. 0278, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.

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 measure, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024, to the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign; and
- (3) Take effect on upon approval.

The HPCA wishes to acknowledge the work of the Alzheimer's Association in informing partner nonprofit organizations, labor, and community leaders throughout the State on the necessity of this public campaign. It is our understanding that efforts like this are occurring throughout the United States and are part of a national campaign to inform our citizens on the availability of new drugs and therapies to mitigate the devastating impacts of this disease.



**Testimony on House Bill No. 0278, Senate Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2023; 10:30 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

After consulting with the Alzheimer's Association and other partner organizations; the HPCA respectfully requests the following:

- (1) That the amount considered be increased to \$1 million total. It was recently learned that the cost of similar campaigns in other states were around \$1 million to \$1.5 million to produce;
- (2) That the appropriation be approved for multiple fiscal years to maximize the Executive Office on Aging's flexibility in implementing the public health campaign in concert with efforts occurring in other states (i.e., if your Committee approves \$1 million total, that it be divided into a \$500,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2023-2024, and \$500,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025); and
- (3) That the bill be made to take effect on July 1, 2023.

**Accordingly, with these amendments, we urge your favorable consideration of this bill.**

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



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
10:30 a. m.

State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via videoconference

Re: HB 278 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawaii 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.

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB 278 HD 1 SD 1, which appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

An AARP Alzheimer's Disease Public Awareness poll conducted in 2018 showed that nearly everyone surveyed knew the seriousness of Alzheimer's Disease and most knew someone who has had the disease or other forms of dementia. However, the public's understanding of the key characteristics was relatively low and that remains the same today.

More public health awareness is needed for people to be better informed of the early signs and symptoms of dementia, its impact on cognition, and resources and assistance that are available to persons with dementia and their families who care for and support them.

We urge you to support HB 278 HD 1 SD 1 and we urge you to recommend its passage.

We thank you 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)

# THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



WAM\_04-04-23 HB 278, HB1486

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: HB 278, HD1, SD1 (SSCR1266) RELATING TO HEALTH

HB 1486, HD1 (SSCR1310) RELATING TO THE KŪPUNA CARE  
PROGRAM

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee

The Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a membership of more than 2,000 politically active and aware seniors and we are deeply concerned that these two bills are advanced for consideration by the full legislature.

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most tragic diseases that can affect any human being. There is far too much ignorance within the general community as to the many different forms of this disease and how those forms may present themselves. In such cases the suffering family member may not be taken to a doctor for a formal diagnosis and receive whatever treatments are available to slow the progress of the disease. As the disease progresses the pain and strain on the other family members is debilitating to the family as a whole as well as the sufferer. The more information we can get to the public the better. If people know how the disease can present itself then maybe they can do something about it before feelings are hurt and precious time for love and togetherness is gone forever.

The Kūpuna Care Program is vital if the Department of Health is to keep up with the needs of Hawaii's constantly growing seniors community. Since this program is specifically within the executive office on aging which is also within the Department of Health, we feel it needs specific and individual financial acknowledgement to operate as intended.

The Kūpuna Caucus respectfully requests that the committee pass these bills on behalf of all current and forthcoming Kūpuna

Martha Randolph for the Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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April 4, 2023  
10:30 am

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB278HD1SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

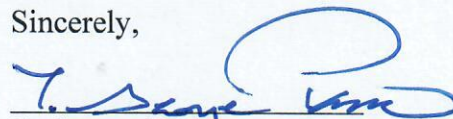
We **SUPPORT** the intent of HB278HD1. The bill establishes and appropriates funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness. Appropriates funds for the executive office on aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness and fund an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

According to the 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, over 6 million U.S. citizens are living with Alzheimer's and over 11 million provided them with unpaid care. Various reports find the cost associated with unpaid care to be between \$200 and \$300 billion annually. Hawaii has an aging population and its fair share of those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia related illnesses. Many of the aging retirees and their partners are part of that group. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer's will have a direct effect on the cost of long-term treatment and the out-of-pocket expenses of our pensioners.

The Ironworkers support the public health campaign section of this bill. If that section is enacted, it would help to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and encourage our community members to discuss such changes in memory and thinking with their healthcare professionals. Please consider supporting a public awareness campaign so that we can better care for our kupuna and their loved ones including our Ironworker pensioners.

The Ironworkers takes no position on the Alzheimer's working group and recommends the committee consider the testimony of subject area experts on its need. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris  
Managing Director



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: 808.597.6550  
www.papaolalokahi.org

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 10:30 AM, Conference Room 415 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB 278 HD 1 SD 1 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Position: IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies in **IN SUPPORT** of **HB 278 HD 1 SD 1**, which aims to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. According to [data](#) from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Native Hawaiian adults with a cognitive disability is 1.3% higher than all adults with cognitive disabilities in Hawaii. As our kūpuna are cherished members of our 'ohana, Papa Ola Lokahi supports efforts aimed at addressing the health needs of the older adults in our communities, especially those that impact Native Hawaiians. Papa Ola Lokahi also supports efforts that aim to be culturally responsive to addressing health disparities that impact Native Hawaiians, including educational campaigns.

Papa Ola Lokahi has an established track record in Native Hawaiian health education, which helped to address the disparities Native Hawaiian communities faced during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as it continues to evolve. Additionally, Papa Ola Lokahi supports and facilitates the dissemination of traditional ways of healing in our communities that encompasses the mind, body, and spirit connection, which is the basis of Native Hawaiian health. Our work aims to address the social and cultural determinants of health that contribute to the health disparity statistic we see prevalent among Native Hawaiians. We work closely with the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, which provide direct and enabling services, and other providers across the state that serve Native Hawaiian communities.

Papa Ola Lokahi supports this measure and affirms that attention to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias is critical to our people and Native Hawaiian health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT** of **HB 278 HD 1 SD 1**.

*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.*

**LATE**

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:23:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
NANCY JONES	Testifying for Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Committee Members:

I present this testimony to SUPPORT of HB 278 / SD 1/HD 1 — which appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias public health campaign.

Alzheimer’s Disease, as the sixth leading cause of death, is a public health concern nationally. Alarmingly, almost 30,000 Hawai`i residents age 65 and older suffer from this disease. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a number of new therapies that may allow Alzheimer’s sufferers to participate more fully in daily activities, retain their independence, and plan for their futures. Yet – these new therapies are the MOST beneficial at the early onset of the disease – making early detection and diagnosis critical. An awareness campaign impressing upon Hawai`i residents the many benefits of early Alzheimer’s Disease and/or dementia testing and urging those at risk to seek out these new therapies could perhaps prevent prolonged suffering or even delay any disease symptoms.

For all of the above reasons and in the interest of Hawai`i’s public health, I urge your Committee to please pass HB 278 / SD 1/HD 1 with funding of \$500,000 -- and to please ensure that the Executive Office on Aging receives these funds ideally in 2023 to benefit all residents – particularly those at risk for Alzheimer’s Disease -- as soon as practical.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB 278 / SD 1/HD 1.

Nancy Jones

Hydroponics Alternatives LLC

PO Box 1472, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: [nancyhydroalt@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhydroalt@gmail.com)

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 12:16:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,  
I support this bill.  
Mahalo nui,  
Cards Pintor



**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:25:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pua auwae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

Johnny werner

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:28:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paula Werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:34:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ed werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:36:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elijah Werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:39:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:49:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melanie Dorado Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melanie Dorado Wilson, and I am the caregiver of my husband who has Alzheimer's. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

My husband was diagnosed in 2019, but I suspected something was wrong much earlier. I wish I had known what we were going to face so I could've gotten him better care. People need to know what to look for, what resources are available, and what can and cannot be done. This information would have helped us tremendously!

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Melanie Dorado Wilson, EdD

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:54:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Naomi Manuel and I am an approaching caregiver of a rapidly aging parent. **I am in strong support of HB 278 HD1 SD1, Relating to Health**, to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

I strongly believe that my generation of future caregivers would tremendously benefit from increased Alzheimer’s awareness and education. General disease facts, information, resources, and strategies will aid families and caregivers in either addressing a current situation with an aging loved one, activating an intervention, or planning for future care that is personally and culturally acceptable to the individual living with Alzheimer’s and their caregivers.

HB278 HD1 SD1 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease and quality of life outcomes for families and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Naomi Manuel



Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1  
RELATING TO HEALTH  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 278 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness:

My name is Savina Makalena, and I am the CEO and Founder of Gimme A Break whose mission is to care for caregivers by giving an emotional and physical break as well as resources for continued well-being. Gimme a Break is based on caring for the caregivers to provide support, resources, and community! Currently 50% of Caregivers pass before their Caree and the majority of the Caregiver in our community are facing the challenges of Dementia related diseases.

My grandmother passed from dementia related complications and my own mother is currently receiving hospice care in her final stage of this disease. The need for education and awareness defines the passion to our mission. Therefore, I am in strong support of the bill HB278 HD 1 SD 1 which aims to appropriate funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. This would effectuate educating the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Most sincerely,

*Savina Makalena*

Savina Makalena



Email [savy@gab808.org](mailto:savy@gab808.org)  
Cell (808)594-9801



**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 3:32:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Diaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha WAM Committee members:**

**I strongly support HB 278:**

**RELATING TO HEALTH. Appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. (SD1)**

**Hawaii's working families & their Kupuna were devastated during the pandemic.**

**As more research has been presented that healthier lifestyles may prevent or delay Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, it is prudent that the Executive Office on Aging receives funding to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.**

**Please appropriate funding for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and dementias public health campaign, to assist our residents to help prevent these devastating diseases, which impact our families and productivity.**

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT FUNDS TARGET ALL OUR ISLANDS, & FUND TANGIBLE RESEARCH BASED PROGRAMS.**

**Mahalo nui loa for your efforts to support our kupuna and their families.**

**Lisa Diaz**

76-223 Haoa St.

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**scidiaz@gmail.com**

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
10:30 a. m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via videoconference

Re: HB 278 HD 1 SD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Lisa Spencer, and I am in strong support of HB 278 HD 1 SD 1, which appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with health care providers.

According to the Alzheimer's Association in Hawaii, currently, there are nearly 100,000 kupuna and others in Hawaii impacted by Alzheimer's disease, or other forms of dementia. A public health campaign about cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and related dementias can raise awareness of these important issues and stimulate groups and individuals to seek information and services. Through an increase in knowledge, people can change attitudes and promote behaviors that improve health and prevent disease.

I am kindly requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Thank you.  
Lisa Spencer  
lspencer@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
10:30 a. m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via videoconference

Re: HB 278 HD 1 SD 1 Relating to Health

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

When I suddenly became the primary caregiver for my mother, I knew my love for her would sustain us. But when her mixed dementia eventually robbed her of her dignity and I stood to defend her against this monster, it was like being thrown in a boxing ring with Muhammad Ali. The stress my husband and I sustained nearly prevented us from caring for our own family, our small business and our own health. Fortunately, I reached out to Alzheimer's, Hawaii Chapter because I hoped they could tell me what to do. And they did, with immense amounts of information and a network of support that helped us withstand the blows of this slow, fatal disease. However, information about this merciless and destructively expensive health issue is still buried beneath our community's awareness. Everyone happily knows that at age 15 we can all get our driver's licenses. But no one wants to eagerly look at life at the other end of health and wellness. We need to make this loud and clear. Dementia is NOT a normal part of aging! What are the signs? What should I do as the victim or caregiver? Who can help?

Our entire extended family strongly supports HB 278 HD 1 SD 1, which appropriates funds to be expended by the Executive Office on Aging for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Public Health Campaign.

Please—support HB 278 HD 1 SD 1, and please recommend its passage.

Sincerely,



S. Sanae Tokumura, ACFRE, APR  
Email: [solidconcepts@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:solidconcepts@hawaii.rr.com)

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 7:40:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Murchie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My mother passed away 2 weeks ago at 97, suffering the past 10 years from Ahlzheimers. There is no cure and while checking out assisted living properties, there appeared to be serious concern that an applicant not have ahlzheimer's or a history of it, which is a little alarming. There are very few specialists in town to assist in diagnosis and expand treatment even for those in the early stages. Scary. We need to get on board with research and treatment. Please support this bill.

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 8:55:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jose miramontes jr	Testifying for ILWULOCAL142	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jose Miramontes Jr and **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

L

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 11:34:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Riley Yoshio Regan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:**

**My name is Riley Regan, a 17-year old high school senior. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1. The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.**

**My Grandpa Araki and many family friends and family members have Alzheimer's Disease. Through more public awareness efforts, people will better understand the early signs of cognitive impairment and, with proper medication and cognitive exercise, could potentially slow down their cognitive decline.**

**I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify!**

**Riley Regan  
Honolulu, Hawaii**

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 7:35:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
IONE CHITTENDEN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1**

**RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am**

**Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ione Chittenden and I am the primary caretaker of my father who has Alzheimer's. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

Many times, people living with Alzheimer's will wander off and get lost. That is why public awareness is critical! It will also aid in early detection.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ione Chittenden

808-217-7007

ichitt@aol.com



**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 11:53:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzanne Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Alzheimer's impacts the individual but also extends to family members. Being able to recognize the signs early and seek resources and services for the whole family is essential. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 1:24:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Dela Cruz and members of the Ways and Means Committee - I am asking for your support of this legislation. It will enable DOH to enhance the knowledge of the citizens of Hawaii regarding the challenge of cognitive impairment, it's early detection and diagnosis, and the importance of working with healthcare professionals to best deal with this scourge. Greater awareness of early symptoms and treatment methods will provide a better chance to make progress in dealing with this growing challenge. Please continue to support this positive public health initiative. Thank you.

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:50:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

BILL HB278 HD1 SD1  
HEARING *Tuesday, Apr 4, 2023, 10:30 AM*  
LOCATION State Capitol – Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
COMMITTEE Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

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Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cynthia Au and **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1**. The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

Alzheimer's is of growing concern for the aging population in the state. It is a disease that not only affects individuals but entire families. I ask that the legislature consider supporting public health through funding education and working with healthcare professionals to deal with this looming health issue.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Cynthia Au

Honolulu, 96814

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 1:14:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB278 HD1 SD1.

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 3:41:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Poki'i Balaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Poki'I Balaz a member of Kupuna Caucus, a Nurse Practitioner at Kokua Kalihi Valley. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1. The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

As both a professional and family caregiver, I have experienced the challenges of this disease. With my own father, it took a while for him to receive his diagnosis and we lost time in his treatment. As a professional some patients and their families are unaware of the signs of symptoms, what to do, and where to go for assistance. This bill would help our community receive valuable information that could make a difference in their journey.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Poki'i Balaz, DNP, EMBA, APRN

[pokiibalaz@gmail.com](mailto:pokiibalaz@gmail.com)

## Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1

### RELATING TO HEALTH

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Renee K. Aven and I have attended the Alzheimer's Support Group on Hawai'i Island the of the Alzheimer's Association. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

We found out our mom has Alzheimer's on or about 2017 just after our father passed away from Parkinson's disease. Mom had been caring for dad when he was first diagnosed around 2010 and until May of 2017 when we discovered something wasn't quite right on a visit to both parents. We made the decision to move dad into the V.A. home in Hilo and after his passing, mom was by herself. We thought someone should be looking out for here since my siblings (4 of them) and myself live in the mainland. My brother and his wife chose to care for her at her home. By 2020, she was moved into a care home and we didn't think it was time for that yet so I came and took care of her, bringing her back to her home from June 2020 to October 2022. She is now with my brother and family in California and has no idea about her home on Hawai'i island or thinks she's in her new home but not sure where?

This disease runs on her side of the family as an uncle and aunty were diagnosed with it. We were saddened to hear of her having it and now we are faced with how to manage her and the disease. Fortunately, we are lucky to have the funds and provide the help needed for her right now. We know it will only get worse and she will lose her memories and especially the memories of who we are, her children but we have had very little help from healthcare professional to be pro-active. For me, I was also very thankful for the support group of the Alzheimer's Association and I really appreciate the coordinator from Hawai'i island, Nicolas Los Banos that gave talks, ideas, helpful hints and being with other people that have the same issues of their loved ones and what can be done to help out or simply talk it out. Thank

you for me allowing to have a few words to please pass HB278 HD! SD!. Mahalo, ~Renee K. Aven,  
daughter of my mom, Judith K. Koffman

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Renee K. Aven

74-707 Paia Place, Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

714-458-7609

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:40:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Hau'oli Wyatt	Testifying for Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee

My name is Kathleen Wyatt, and I am the President and founder of Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i, and non-profit organization that operates two adult day care centers. I am in STRONG support of HB278 HD1SD1. The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

The clients I care for in the adult day care centers all have some level of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. It is the family members who tell me how blind-sided they were when their loved one started showing signs of dementia and then got the diagnosis. If they had been educated on steps to prepare for what was to come, to have spoken with their physicians and been told warning signs and changes in memory and thinking, they would have been prepared to do what needed to be done to help their loved one. I like the saying, "To be forewarned is to be forearmed". The is so true. Knowing what to watch for is so important to get early treatment and to prevent the fear and uncertainty of what they will be facing.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to give this testimony.

Kathleen Wyatt

808-292-4665



Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Sharie Nagatani, MSW Candidate  
94-515 Lumiaina Street, #L103  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
(808) 729-1309

April 2, 2023

### **Support for HB 278, Relating to Health**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharie Nagatani and I am a final year Graduate Student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, earning a Master of Social Work with a focus in gerontology. As a child, I have watched the memory of my great-grandmother dissipate as Alzheimer's disease took over her independence and ability to age in place. Ultimately, it stole her quality of life. As an adult, I am beginning to see similarities of my great-grandmother in my Aunt who is displaying early signs of memory loss.


According to the World Health Organization (WHO), by **2030, 1 in 6 individuals in the world will be aged 60 years and older, increasing the number of older adults to 1.4 billion** (World Health Organization, 2022). The statistics of Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i reflect it as an increasing public health crisis. The Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii highlights alarming data of older adults living with Alzheimer's:

- Approximately 29,000 people aged 65 years and older are diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease
- An estimated of 91 million hours of unpaid care is provided by caregivers with \$1.9 billion resulting in the value of unpaid care
- 60,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease

To address this health crisis, the role of the public health campaign will educate the public on 1) the early signs of cognitive impairment, 2) the value of early detection and diagnosis, and 3) the importance of discussing with health care professionals about changes in memory and thinking.

Hence, **I strongly support HB 278, relating to health which will provide appropriate funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign**. I would like the committee to be aware that my testimony is on my behalf and not of an organization despite my past affiliations. I urge the committee to pass HB 278. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

  
Sharie Nagatani

## References

- Alzheimer's Association. (2023) Public Health Action in Hawaii.  
<https://www.alz.org/professionals/public-health/state-overview/hawaii>
- World Health Organization. (2022). Aging and Health.  
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1**

**RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am**

**Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ohad Amidor. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

I know that some of you know individuals who suffer from cognitive impairment, and I am sure that you know that early sign education can support those individuals and postpone their condition. Early detection is essential, and you have the power to support this cause. Please help pass bill HB278. Our kupuna trusts you to do the right thing.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor

Amidor@Hawaii.edu

April 2, 2023

TO: Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**RE: HB278 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Health**

Hearing scheduled: April 4, 10:30AM  
Conference Room 211 – Hawaii State Capitol

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Chair; Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

**I support HB278 HD1 SD1** to appropriate the necessary funds to the Executive Office on Aging to create a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness in Hawaii.

Who will this benefit? More than most people realize:

*Statistics from the National Alzheimer's website state this disease cost our nation **\$321 billion** in 2022. By 2050, these costs could reach nearly \$1 trillion. **1 in 3 seniors** dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.*

Why educate?

***Fewer than 1 in 5 Americans** are familiar with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), which can be an early stage of Alzheimer's. Based on the research studies, intervention to alleviate or slow the progress of the disease occurs in patients who are diagnosed at an early stage.*

Since multiple segments of your constituents are faced with either being a patient, providing caregiving to a patient or footing the bill of the costs associated with the disease (through taxes) – it makes sense to have a well-planned public health campaign in Hawaii to support citizens who are affected by Alzheimer's Disease.

**I ask you to support HB 278 HD1 SD1** and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Olah  
Resident, State of Hawaii

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 6:43:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Shimabuku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft  
1 Senate Draft 1**

**RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am**

**Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Shimabuku. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

We are currently caring for our mom who has been diagnosed with dementia for the past 10+ years. As with most of us having our own personal lives, we may overlook or may miss the early subtle signs of Alzheimer/Dementia. I believe educating everyone of the symptoms of this

disease would be a benefit to a patient and the people around them. Early detection and seeking medical advice will help the victims be safer at the onset of the disease.

As with our personal experiences, we overlooked, missed symptoms of mom misplacing things, not remembering where she parked her car, left important things in a shopping cart, trunk, leaving the stove on and walking away for a nap, etc. . I shrugged off the signs of the disease due to old age as she was in her mid 70's and later realized these instances could have turned out very badly for her, our family and others around her.

I believe educating the public of the symptoms, early detection signs and seeking medical advice would be the best case scenario for a person with Alzheimer/Dementia and related diseases.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Paul Shimabuku

paperwell@aol.com

Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TO: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alan Ahn

POSITION: Strong Support

PURPOSE: The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

My name is Alan Ahn, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 278 HD 1 SD 1. As a recent college graduate in the aging related fields, I'm well aware of the significant negative impact of Alzheimer's disease on individuals, families and society by in large. Because of my involvement in the aging services network, I also understand that information on this subject can be equally impactful.

In my recent caregiving experience, my knowledge about cognitive impairment was critical to providing optimal care for my loved one. However, I found that family, friends, and members of our community are sadly uninformed.

Caregivers are essential liaisons between the patient and physician because they may have intimate knowledge of the signs of aging. Consequently, I believe that awareness about dementia is fundamental to affect the best course of care.

I humbly ask for the passage of HB278 HD1 SD1.

Gratefully,

Alan Ahn

Email [alkahn808@gmail.com](mailto:alkahn808@gmail.com)

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 7:39:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Yadao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Yadao. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed. Thank you for the opportunity to give my testimony!



**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 7:54:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Calvin M. Hara, a concerned resident and advocate for kupuna in our state. am in strong support of **HB278 HD1 SD1**, to fund and implement a much needed public health awareness campaign on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

There is a need to broaden the awareness of how Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia affects hundreds of people in our state. I am a caregiver and truly understand the daily care needs of a loved one and how important it is for others to know about the illness and how to best provide care.

**HB278 HD1 SD1** would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease, with the intent to improve the lives of Hawaii residents impacted by Alzheimer’s and other dementia.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Calvin Hara

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:14:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roselyn Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill which aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Testimony

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Vaipapa Soliai, I am apart of TEC Empowerment. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD 1 SD1. The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

My father and mother had Alzheimer's. Growing up we had a hard time with my mother.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Vaipapa Soliai  
Vaipapas@gmail.com

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 9:14:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha! My name is Nancy Rose, and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association, living in Pukalani, Maui. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

My father lived with some form of dementia for a period of 10-15 years before he passed away in 2016. He was never properly diagnosed, and his caregiver (his wife) was not equipped to care for him. I support this bill; it would have been helpful to have a solid diagnosis and support systems to help with his care.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

2815 Palalani Street, Pukalani, HI 96768, 808-264-2663

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278 House Draft 1 Senate Draft 1**  
**RELATING TO HEALTH**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 10:30 am**

To the Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Corrie Sanders and I am a pharmacist and current President of the of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association. **Today I testify in strong support of HB278 HD1 SD1.** The bill aims to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

Pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare professionals in Hawai'i, especially on our neighbor islands where barriers to care are unique and ubiquitous. It's not only important that we equip pharmacists with educational materials and tools to assist in cognitive assessment of our patients, but we need to educate residents across the state on how to take ownership of memory as we age.

Hawai'i is facing an unprecedented healthcare crisis where wait times for appointments, specifically for mental health and memory related issues, are often weeks, if not months, away. This bill aims to significantly reduce the burden on an already overburdened healthcare system by empowering patients to take ownership of their health and wellness through education. Investing in initiatives like education and early diagnosis are the cornerstones of value-based care so that we may approach treatment in a manner that's preventative, not reactive, in nature. HB278 will allow detection and treatment of early cognitive decline before it becomes life altering and burdensome to both patients, their families, and the healthcare system of Hawai'i.

I am requesting that HB278 HD1 SD1 be passed. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrie Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corrie L. Sanders, PharmD, BCACP, CPGx  
Founder, Huna Health Pharmacogenomic Consulting  
President, Hawai'i Pharmacists Association

**HB-278-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 11:27:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2023 10:30:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Committee Members:

I present this testimony SUPPORTING HB 278 / SD 1/HD 1 — that will appropriate funds to the Executive Office on Aging in order to create an Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias public health campaign.

As the sixth leading cause of death, Alzheimer’s Disease is a public health concern nationally. Most alarming is that almost 30,000 Hawai`i residents age 65 and older suffer from this disease. However, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a number of new therapies that may allow Alzheimer’s sufferers to participate more fully in daily activities, retain their independence, and plan for their futures. These new therapies appear to be the MOST beneficial at the early onset of the disease – making early detection and diagnosis critical. An awareness campaign impressing upon Hawai`i residents the many benefits of early Alzheimer’s Disease and/or dementia testing and urging those at risk to seek out these new therapies could perhaps prevent prolonged suffering or even delay any disease symptoms.

For these reasons and in the interest of Hawai`i’s public health, I respectfully urge your Committee to please pass HB 278 / SD 1/HD 1 with funding of \$500,000 -- and to please ensure that the Executive Office on Aging receives these funds ideally in 2023 to benefit all residents – particularly those at risk for Alzheimer’s Disease -- as soon as practical.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HB 278 / SD 1/HD 1.

Zeb Jones

PO Box 1462/ Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: [zebbe3442@gmail.com](mailto:zebbe3442@gmail.com)