H.B. NO.

1283
H.D. 1
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1   SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a 2015 nationwide

2   survey by Justice in Aging concluded that ten states have laws

3   requiring dementia training for law enforcement personnel, and

4   one state requires dementia training for emergency medical

5   technicians.

6   The legislature notes that six in ten people with dementia

7   will wander and a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease may

8   not remember his or her name or address and can become

9   disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with

10   dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or

11   hostility, all of which can escalate to more aggressive

12   behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with

13   dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be

14   incidents of false police reports and victimization, indecent

15   exposure, and shoplifting. People with Alzheimer's disease may

16   appear uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have

17   difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening.

1   Furthermore, first responder personnel may not know how to

2   assist people in these situations, leading to more confusion.

3   The legislature believes that providing education related

4   to dementia and training in de-escalation tactics for

5   firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other first

6   responder personnel can often effectively address these types of

7   situations and ensure the safety of the first responder

8   personnel and the individuals with dementia.

9   The purpose of this Act is to authorize the development and

10   provision of dementia training to first responder personnel.

11   SECTION 2.   Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

12   amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be

13   appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14   "§321-   **First responder personnel; dementia training.**

15   (a) The employers of first responder personnel may obtain

16   dementia training for first responder personnel, which may

17   include:

18   (1) Recognizing the key signs of Alzheimer's disease and

19   related types of dementia;

20   (2) Strategies for assessing cognition;

1   (3) Best practices for interacting with persons with

2   Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia; and

3   (4) Strategies to best identify and intervene in

4   situations where persons with Alzheimer's disease and

5   related types of dementia may be at particular risk of

6   abuse or neglect.

7   (b) The training shall be offered at no cost to the

8 applicable first responder personnel and shall be funded by

9 private contributions from relevant non-profit organizations.

10   (c) The executive office on aging may coordinate the

11 training schedules and standards, as necessary, with all public

12 and private entities and agencies responsible for services

13 provided by first responder personnel, including entering into

14 agreements or memoranda of agreement with nonprofit

15 organizations to provide funding pursuant to subsection (b).

16   (d) The employers of first responder personnel may utilize

17 existing educational and training resources available in the

18 public and private sectors when developing the training required

19 under this section."

20   SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

21   SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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Report Title:
Dementia Training; Alzheimer's Disease; Dementia; First Responder Personnel; Executive Office on Aging

Description:
Permits the employers of first responder personnel to obtain dementia training for first responder personnel. Permits the executive office on aging to coordinate the dementia training schedules and standards with all public and private entities and agencies responsible for services provided by first responder personnel. (CD1)

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