
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 having
7 dementia will wander and a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's
8 disease may not remember his or her name or address and can
9 become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals
10 having dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear,
11 or hostility, all of which can escalate to more aggressive
12 behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals having
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 having Alzheimer's disease
16 may appear uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they
17 have difficulty communicating and understanding what is



1 happening. Furthermore, first responder personnel may not know
2 how to assist people in these situations, leading to more
3 confusion.

4 The legislature believes that providing education related
5 to dementia and training in de-escalation tactics for
6 firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other first
7 responder personnel can often effectively address these types of
8 situations and ensure the safety of the first responder
9 personnel and the individuals having dementia.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require the development and
11 provision of dementia training to first responder personnel.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be
14 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

15 "§321- First responder personnel; dementia training.

16 (a) The employers of first responder personnel may obtain
17 dementia training for first responder personnel, which may
18 include:

19 (1) Recognizing the key signs of Alzheimer's disease and
20 related types of dementia;

21 (2) Strategies for assessing cognition;



1 (3) Best practices for interacting with persons having
2 Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia; and

3 (4) Strategies to best identify and intervene in
4 situations where persons having Alzheimer's disease
5 and related types of dementia may be at particular
6 risk of 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, 2050.



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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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