

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on HB1283
RELATING TO HEALTH.

SEN. JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SEN. JARETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 18, 2021

Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) concurs that more community
2 education on Alzheimer's disease and related conditions (AD/ADRD) is beneficial but expresses
3 concerns that part XVIII of chapter 321 is an inappropriate part of Hawaii Revised Statutes to
4 amend.

5 **Statutory Authority for Alzheimer's Disease**

6 Section 349-6.5, HRS, authorizes the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to prepare and update
7 the state plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This training program proposed by
8 HB1283 should be vetted through the state plan, including as pursuant to this section, "the tasks,
9 timelines, and milestones for each goal [of the Alzheimer's state plan] along with parties
10 assigned to each task..."

11 There is no program infrastructure or subject-matter expertise on AD/ADRD in the Department
12 of Health.

13 **Limitations of Part XVIII, Chapter 321**

14 Section 321-229, HRS, requires the University of Hawaii to provide training for emergency
15 medical services personnel, which include statewide standards for such. As a result, this
16 measure lacks accountability and enforcement. The requirement of HB1283 to train all first

responders – firefighters, emergency medical technicians, police officers, et al. – is well beyond the scope and budget of the EMS program. The Department of Health does not share infrastructure or methods with law enforcement and fire department personnel to the extent that the counties do.

Alternatives

1. DOH respectfully recommends the requirement for first responder training for AD/ADRD be established with the County Offices on Aging in Session Law. This is the most logical entity to coordinate training given their proximity to county government and with the Executive Office on Aging. Trainings should be reported up through EOA to align with the state plan.
2. A second alternative is to establish in chapters relating to county government organization, such as chapter 46 because first responders are largely county employees or county-contracted services.

Offered Amendments: N/A.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:45:11 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

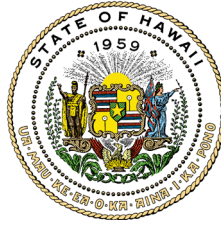
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Arakaki	Testifying for DOH- Executive Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

EOA stands on written testimony. Attending on behalf of Director. Available for questions.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1283 HD1
Relating to Health

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR LES IHARA, VICE-CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 18, 2021
3:05 PM

Conference Rm. 225
Via Videoconference

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department
- 2 of Health (DOH), provides comments on House Bill 1283 HD1, Relating to Health.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** As currently written, there are no fiscal implications to the EOA.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure authorizes EOA to set standards, frequency and
- 5 coordination for dementia training to first responders. EOA agrees that first responders can
- 6 benefit from training and awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia and met with the
- 7 Alzheimer's Association and the Honolulu Police Department on potential amendments to the
- 8 bill. EOA is committed to collaborating with other government and nonprofit agencies to ensure
- 9 that dementia trainings align with the ADRD State Plan.
- 10 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:59:16 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

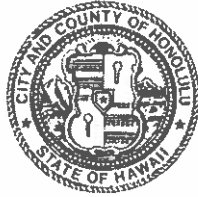
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Shimizu	Testifying for Executive Office on Aging	Comments	No

Comments:

i'm available for questions

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.police.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE ML-SK

March 18, 2021

LATE

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura, Keohokalole and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 1283, H.D. 1, Relating to Health

I am Mike Lambert, Major of the Training Division, of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes the passage of House Bill No. 1283, H.D. 1. This bill would require specialty training by law and allow the Executive Office on Aging to set the standard and frequency of the training. The HPD feels that each agency should set the standard and frequency of training based on their ability to successfully train their staff so that it does not interfere with the other duties and services they provide to the community.

The HPD currently includes a module of instruction to acknowledge and recognize the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and dementia through its Mental Health First Aid and Crisis Intervention Team certification.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 1283, H.D. 1, Relating to Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard", is written over a horizontal line.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lambert", is written.

Mike Lambert, Major
Training Division

alzheimer's association®

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1670 Makaloa Street, Suite 204-316, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

March 17, 2021

Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura
Senate Committee on Human Services
Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, 3:05 PM
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB1283 HD1 RELATING TO DEMENTIA TRAINING.

Dear Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committees:

The Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii extends our **strong support** for House Bill 1283 HD1. We also support amendments that we believe address concerns that have been expressed during previous hearings while retaining the intention of the bill.

Our proposed amendments apply to Section 2 starting at Subsection (b). These changes primarily amend the Executive Office on Aging's role from setting standards for dementia training to recommending standards, enable the Executive Office on Aging to request documentation related to the dementia training that first responders receive, and require employers of first responders to transmit certifications of completion of attestations that dementia training was completed by their employees. Finally, as selection of the preferred first responder training will be the responsibility of employers, private contributions from non-profit organization may be permitted but would no longer be required.

I have included draft language related to the proposed amends below.

(b) The training required under this section shall be offered at no cost to the applicable first responders and may be funded by private contributions from relevant non-profit organizations.

(c) The executive office on aging may set recommendations for the standards (and), frequency (for) of the dementia training, and dementia training programs and certifications that fulfill subsection (a).

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(d) The executive office on aging may coordinate as necessary with all public and private entities and agencies responsible for services provided by first responders to provide the training required under this section, including entering into agreements or memoranda of agreement with nonprofit organizations to provide funding pursuant to subsection (b).

~~(d)~~ (e) The executive office on aging may request documentation from the employers of first responder in order to ascertain the characteristics of first responder dementia training.

(f) The employers of first responders may utilize existing educational and training resources available in the public and private sectors when developing the training required under this section.

(g) The employers of first responders shall transmit certificates of completion or attestations that dementia training was completed pursuant to subsection (a).

~~(e)~~ (h) As used in this section, "first responders" includes firefighters, emergency medical technicians, mobile intensive care technicians, emergency management workers, police officers, and state law enforcement officers."

Dementia training requirements are urgently needed. By 2025, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to 35,000. It is our position is that it is time to for the state to take the step of mandating training requirements to make Hawaii more dementia capable so that we can better protect our state's kupuna as the scale of the Alzheimer's public health crisis continues to grow.

A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. This is a frequent problem; six in ten people with dementia will wander. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or

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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.

First responders may also interact with people with dementia while searching for a lost individual, stopping drivers who exhibit unsafe driving, rescuing people with dementia from abuse, and intervening in crisis or disaster situations. Individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias can also be the victims of elder abuse but, they may be unaware they are victims and may not know how to—or be able to—report it. Complicating the situation, people with Alzheimer's may also present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Dementia training for first responders will help these professionals effectively respond these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

Hawaii would not be alone in requiring this type of training. As of 2015, ten states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders. It is also easier than ever to adopt these training standards. Dementia training for first responders and the accompanying certification can be received online for no cost to first responders or their employers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of this legislation and provide suggested amendments.

Ian Ross
Public Policy and Advocacy Manager
iaross@alz.org | Phone: (808) 591-2771 x1333



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
Committee on Human Services
Committee on Health
Thursday, March 18, 2021
3:05 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Char

RE: H.B. 1283, HD 1 Relating to Health

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i.

AARP Hawai'i supports H.B. 1283, HD 1 which requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It permits the executive office on aging to set the standards, frequency and coordination of dementia training.

In 2019, there were 29,000 Hawaii residents 65 years and older, who were diagnosed with Alzheimer's and related dementia. The Alzheimer's Association projected that this figure would increase to 35,000 people by year 20215. These estimates do not reflect people who undiagnosed, or those with early onset who are under age 65. Most people prefer to receive care and services in their homes or the community, which places them at risk to wander away and not remember who they are and their home address. They may become disoriented, show signs of anxiety or fear, become hostile and aggressive, and have difficulty communicating with others who are trying to help them This bill will help develop and train the first responders (e.g. firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and police officers) to recognize the key signs of Alzheimer's and related dementia, appropriately interact with persons living with dementia, and how to best intervene in situations where these individuals may be lost, or disoriented and need assistance to return home safely.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1283, HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:18:25 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence M.G. Enomoto	Testifying for Aloha Chapter, Alzheimer's Association	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

Aloha kakou!

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Mahalo nui loa,

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

As a social work, case manager and health consultant for over 30 years, I have observed how our systemic gaps and policy failures in our community have been barriers to assuring safety to those who are suffering from dementia (Persons Living with Dementia - PLWD, Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Related Dementia - AD/ADRD). This will be a vital initial step to address the identification of PLWD/AD/ADRD and prevent future/repeat incidents that can be problematic for PWLD and their families/care takers.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

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I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Best wishes,

Melissa C. Bojorquez

Melissa C. Bojorquez, LBSW, CCM-R, MBA

Email: melissacareopsconsult@gmail.com (Mobile) 808.778.2752

CareOps Consulting, LLC

Owner/PresidentChair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

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As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Best wishes,

Melissa C. Bojorquez

Melissa C. Bojorquez, LBSW, CCM-R, MBA

Email: melissacareopsconsult@gmail.com (Mobile) 808.778.2752

CareOps Consulting, LLC

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Dementia training for first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Best wishes,

Melissa C. Bojorquez

Melissa C. Bojorquez, LBSW, CCM-R, MBA

Email: melissacareopsconsult@gmail.com (Mobile) 808.778.2752

CareOps Consulting, LLC

Owner/President

March 16, 2021

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **HB1283 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Senator Les Ihara and Senator Rosalyn Baker and members of the Committees:

I support HB1283 because this bill calls for first responders to receive dementia training. Passage of this bill provides first responders with the specific skills and knowledge on dementia, especially Alzheimer's type of dementia, and will be able to better serve those in need of emergency services.

Hawaii's kupuna population continues to rise each year. Many have dementia along with other illnesses. Those over age ninety, fifty percent will have some form of dementia.

In my thirty plus years career in long term care, I have witnessed first responders coming in to aide seniors with dementia. There have been times when the first responders could have exercised emergency care reflective on his or her understanding of dementia, how to verbally communicate to someone with dementia and show empathy and aloha in that greatest time of need. Requiring dementia training to all first responders will provide for consistency and best practices in caring for kupuna with dementia.

I encourage you to support HB1283.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Calvin M. Hara".

Calvin M. Hara

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

I have had direct experience with this situation as a caregiver when emergency services were called to help my father who is in the end stage of Alzheimer's. From the phone call to when they arrived, they were informed about my father's diagnosis. It was apparent they did not understand how the diagnosis affected the situation which led to a frustration and delayed care. As a clinician, increasing education and awareness throughout our healthcare services are a must as there is still a lot that is misunderstood regarding the disease.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Poki'i Balaz', written over the 'Best wishes,' text.

Dr. Poki'i Balaz, DNP, EMBA, APRN
Director of Nursing, Lunalilo Home
Memory Clinic, Kookaa Kalihi Valley

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:46:49 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Shouldn't that have already been a requirement? Good for the person who caught this and proposed the bill. Mahalo nui loa.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 12:32:18 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Wyatt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB1283, Establish Dementia Training for First Responders, is near and dear to my heart. I have an adult day care and my clients suffer from Alzheimer's Disease and other types of dementia. I have been educating caregivers on how to care for loved ones with dementia, and without the knowledge, it can be very frustrating and disheartening. First responders should be trained on what to do if they are confronted with a kupuna who is lost or if the family reports them missing and they have dementia. The first responders need to know that these folks need a different kind of care and understanding, and confronting them can cause behaviors or many other issues. Calm voice, slow motions, not pushing them into submission, simple instructions, simple questions and a lot more need to be taught so they can deal with kupuna with dementia. This is a very important bill, and it would be greatly appreciated if you would please support this bill.

Mahalo.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:34:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alvina L. Lutu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:28:13 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Weiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

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First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Sincerely,

Tom Weiner

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:35:20 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Truong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

My mother is living with younger-onset Alzheimer's and she is now in the late stages of the disease but she used to be able to get out of the house and wander. If she ran into anybody, it would be easy to think she was a homeless mentally ill person or on drugs because she didn't always make sense, she could be confused, or agitated and wearing her pajamas. It would be worrying for us because we could never be sure that if she got lost, a first responder would have an encounter with her and respond appropriately. Knowing first responded having the appropriate training on how to interact with Alzheimer's patients would be super helpful to families like myself in the community.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:14:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Murota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

I support this bill because my mother has dementia, and I have had experience with first responders who didn't know what to do about it. Back in 2017, my father was the primary caregiver for my mother who had recently been diagnosed with dementia. I did not live with my parents at the time, I was married and just gave birth to my son a few months prior. I would visit them every few days, and I'm so thankful I went to their house that afternoon. I found my father on the floor, and my mother was casually folding laundry and watching tv. With my son in my arms I asked my mom if she knew what happened, and because of her dementia she just said "oh he's sleeping, he's fine". I knew my dad was not fine...I didnt know how long he was on the floor or what happened! I tried to talk to my dad but he was slurring his words, and couldn't really talk or move. I immediately called 911.

When the firemen and paramedics arrived, I tried to convey the previous story to them. But, they all tried to talk with my mom first. I told them she has dementia, but yet they tried to question her and not really talk to me. She told them the same thing she told me, and they continued to question her about details, which my mom had no clue or didn't understand what they were asking. I tried telling any of them about my dad's history of epilepsy, his medicines, or any other info I thought would help, and some did listen and some didn't. I kept repeating that my mom has dementia and she won't be able to tell you anything about what happened, we can only guess and try to figure out what to do. Finally, they did decide to talk and ask me things, but my mom started to get mad because she thought they were ignoring her in her own home by not asking her things. All that time passed, and it was finally decided to take dad to the hospital to see what was going on with him.

I just wish the responders would have just asked mom, and once they realized her dementia didn't allow her to know anything that was going on, they would have realized that they needed to help dad right away. All that time trying to question and figure things out just wasted time and made both mom and me angry. To this day, almost 4 years later, Dad still has no recollection of what happened that day. From that day, he has never returned home to live...he was eventually put in a nursing home to be taken care of. My mom also had to be placed in a nursing facility, but I made sure it specialized in dementia care. That day was the day everything changed for my whole family. I have seen firsthand how people deal with dementia patients...some good, some bad.

So, that is why I'm advocating for dementia training. Dealing with people who have dementia requires knowledge of the disease and how to respond to all situations. I hope in the future people will be more patient and understanding of dementia patients, and especially thoughtful to their family members.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Warmest Aloha,

Joy Murota

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:09:27 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon takaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:14:45 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

Safety for our populous and training for our first responders are investments in our ongoing race to maintain a high standard of living and care for all residents. Dementia is scary for all parties involved. It's also a common debilitating disease that impacts some community members for many as 20 years. We need HB1283. This legislation ensures our first responders get the ongoing training they need statewide.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you for taking action!

Best wishes,

Christopher Edwards
Honolulu, HI 96822

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:32:40 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori McCarney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

I am in strong support of HB 1283 to better prepare first responders and set standards for caring for people with dementia.

My father suffered with Alzheimer's, a form of dementia, for over 8 years until he passed. During that time, he went through various stages of mental function including paranoia, anger, the inability to function, and hostility. Sometimes I would find him in very horrible situations--like standing with his pants dropped to the floor at his ankles, or grabbing a person. It wasn't him--it was the disease.

Many people think of dementia only as forgetfulness, and perhaps even find it amusing. Not until they better understand the disease, and how to interact with people with the disease, can they possibly be of assistance.

Dementia training for first responders can help ensure the safety of and respect for those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I hope you will pass this important legislation to help people like my dad.

Sincerely,

Lori McCarney

To: Committee on Human Services
Committee on Health

Date: March 18, 2021, Conference Room 225/Videoconference, 3:05 p.m.

Re: **HB1283 HD1 – RELATING TO Health
Testimony in Strong Support**

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

I **strongly support** HB1283 HD1. This measure requires employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to recommend standards and frequency for dementia training.

I provide this testimony in memory of my late father who died from this disease and on behalf of the literally thousands of individuals and unpaid family caregivers that are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. There are currently 29,000 Hawaii residents living with Alzheimer's disease who are assisted by 51,000 unpaid family caregivers.

These family caregivers shoulder the responsibility for caring for loved ones with dementia. However, at some point the caregivers may need help from first responders. These first responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten kupuna 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, shoplifting, etc. Dementia training for first responders can help professionals effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Steve Tam
Honolulu, HI 96825

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:29:47 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary A. Powell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dementia affects a large and growing population of Hawai'i residents. Being able to understand the various diseases of dementia by First Responders is critical to compassionate and effective emergency response. Every First Responder needs to understand the basics of the disease and more importantly, techniques and practices that can enhance their response actions.

In an ideal world, this training would be found in grocery store employees, retail establishment clerks, transportation operators, teachers, - basically everyone. Understanding dementia leads to better responses which in turn results in a more caring community. *Malama na Kupuna*

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:51:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Thank you.

Chuck Taylor

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:42:31 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the Committee,**My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in strong support for HB1283.**

As someone who has lost family to dementia, it is vital to learn how to understand, recognize and interact with people with dementia. My grandfather would wonder outside his home and be very confused when people would try to negate what he believed to be true within that moment. He would wonder because he would be trying to go somewhere that wasn't actually there. He would get apprehensive as people he did not know tried remind him of reality, but *his* reality was dealing with dementia and needing proper treatment and compassion.

First responders need this training to properly handle situations that could potentially cause more harm to the person with dementia.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Alani Bagcalalani.bagcal@ppvnh.org**96815**

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:58:49 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Davenport	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1283 HD1. Given Hawaii's aging population and the fact that more people are living longer, we need to have measures in place that will better support, care for, and protect our senior citizens, particularly those who may suffer from dementia and who may wander. Having trained first responders is a much needed measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Kathleen Davenport, Kapolei, HI

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:23:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Hokama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

These situations would have applied to my dad, who had Alzheimer's but is now passed away. He would have been a prime example of someone who would have benefitted from first responders who would have had this kind of training. Because of his disease, he tended to wander, could become aggressive and angry when confronted, and for a while was well enough that he would appear "normal" to someone without training, someone who didn't know what to look for. Knowing this kind of training requirement existed would have also given me peace of mind.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:55:37 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard I Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a common sense bill and should be supported by all members of this legislative body.

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:48:51 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis Mililani Liftee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, House and Senate Leaders:

I'm sure that all of you are aware of how any form of dementia affects the elderly or a younger individual as well as the caregivers. It's even more difficult when the caregiver is a family member. I should know because I took care of my mom. It was extremely devastating to have seen how the disease robbed my mom of her capabilities to enjoy life. Although she never knew what her actions were at times, it was extremely difficult and extremely heartbreaking to have seen her go through the motions in an incorrect way.

She is no longer with us. She became severely ill about 1 1/2 years after I quit my job. And I quit my job because the dementia had worsened.

At least three days prior to her passing, she didn't recognize me. It tore my heart and my soul apart.

I ask that this bill passes unanimously for the sake of our elderly and those who might be stricken with dementia at a younger age.

It's extremely important that all first responders go through training. Dealing w/ an individual who has dementia isn't easy. One has to know how to approach the individual not only verbally, but in action as well.

Every individual is different. One method might work for some, yet it might not work for others. It all depends. You don't want to frighten them. They are fragile in every way: in spirit, in mind, and in body. Overall, it takes a great deal of compassion, patience, and understanding to care for anyone w/ dementia.

I hope that a substantial amount of funding will be available to train all first responders.

Thank you kindly for taking all of the testimonies in favor of passing this bill into consideration.

Mahalo nui,

Alexis Mililani Liftee

Kaka'ako

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 7:20:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Nuland-Ames	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony for HB1283

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. 60% of people with dementia will wander at some point. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility, potentially escalating to aggressive behaviors if the first responder has not been trained in communicating with a person who has dementia.

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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is the time for Hawaii to mandate dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation, and thank you for taking action!

Linda Nuland-Ames

Koloa, Kauai

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:16:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Tabor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing today in support of HB1283, First Responder Training. My support comes with first hand experience in Seattle, Washington where I helped with the First Responder Training; Crisis Response Training and CIT, Crisis Intervention Teams in King county. Our training became a national training many counties duplicated. Frequently first responders interact with people living with dementia in a variety of situations, like; searching for a lost individual, stopping drivers, rescuing people from abuse, and intervening in crisis or disaster situations. Complicating the situation, people with Alzheimer's may also present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative. The dementia individual typically has unique behaviors best handled by those who understand the behavioral issues of a person with dementia. Specialized training is necessary to help both the first responders and dementia individual. A specialized understanding would help the first responder know how to recognize and interact with people with dementia, increasing their effectiveness.

HB1283 would finally establish criteria for dementia training that all first responders would fulfill, improving their professional skills. This important change makes Hawai'i more dementia effective.

This 40-hour class is designed to educate **King County** law enforcement officers on issues related to becoming a **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** officer. This 40-hour **Crisis Intervention Team Training** class is designed to educate law enforcement officers on becoming a **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** officer. <https://www.cjtc.wa.gov/training-education/crisis-intervention-training>

Thank you for your consideration on this incredibly important bill.

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:42:52 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy Oyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the committees,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to set the standards and frequency for the dementia training.

Because my father, who suffered from dementia and passed away last year, was not treated well nor were we (his children), when he was taken to emergency in a hospital where he eventually died, I feel it is important to ask for your support in passing this bill. I strongly feel there is a need for first responders to learn to be more compassionate when dealing with people suffering from dementia, as well as stressed caregivers who are gravely concerned about their loved ones.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. 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 first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Peggy Oyama
1072 Kaumoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:24:38 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/18/2021 3:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gina Fujikami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1283. This measure requires employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It also enables the Executive Office on Aging to recommend standards and frequency for dementia training.

First responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in ten kupuna 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, shoplifting, etc. Dementia training for first responders can help professionals effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is time for Hawaii to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our kupuna.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Gina Fujikami**Zip code 96813**