JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR OF HAWAI'I KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I

KENNETH FINK, M.D., MGA, MPH DIRECTOR OF HEALTH KA LUNA HO'OKELE



CAROLINE CADIRAO DIRECTOR

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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 SB 163 Relating to Health

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR SENATOR HENRY AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 1, 2023 1:00 PM. Room Number:225 Via Videoconference

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department

of Health, supports the intent of SB 163, Relating to Health, and provides the following comments.

Fiscal Implications: This measure appropriates \$1,000,000 to the Executive Office on Aging

for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias public health campaign including the

establishment of 1.0 FTE Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias services coordinator

position within the Executive Office on Aging.

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

The Executive Office on Aging, with funding from a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) planning grant, already established workgroups that are currently updating and developing a new state plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. The state plan will include goals and activities in four CDC areas: 1) data; 2) workforce development; 3) program and policy and 4) public awareness and education. We acknowledge that the public awareness and education campaign in the new state plan will be much broader than the 1) early signs of cognitive impairment; 2) value of early detection and diagnosis, and 3) the benefits of discussing changes in memory with health care professionals identified in SB 163, however, we can incorporate these elements into the public awareness goal in the state plan. Additionally, in March, EOA will be applying for a 5-year implementation grant for the state plan from CDC. The implementation grant is a maximum of \$600,000 per year for 5 years. EOA does not have staff who is qualified in communications or public relations so we would have to procure and find a vendor to carry out a public health campaign. EOA has many variables to consider as we await possible award of the BOLD implementation grant therefore, we are unclear as to the timeframe for a public health education campaign. The bill also requires establishing one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) for the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias service coordinator position. This is not necessary as the position has

already been established.

Recommendation: EOA supports the intent of this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request. Additionally, we feel that the purpose of the public health campaign can be incorporated into the new state plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830 1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882 aarp.org/hi | <u>aarphi@aarp.org</u> | twitter.com/AARPHawaii facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Wednesday, February 1, 2023 Conference Room 225 1:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair RE: Support for S.B. 163 Relating to Health

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP supports S.B. 163 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. S.B.163 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 **S.B 163**.

Sincerely,

State Director

February 1, 2023 1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB163 - Relating to Health

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

We <u>SUPPORT</u> the intent of SB163. The bill appropriates funds for an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign, including the establishment of an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias services coordinator position within the Executive Office on Aging. As the Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position is currently filled, we do not believe such language is necessary any longer in the bill.

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 our ironworker 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.

This bill, if enacted, would 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.

Sincerely,

T. George Paris

T. George Paris Managing Director

TGP: MP

94-497 UKEE STREET
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797
(808) 677-0375

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:26:41 PM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gino Soquena	Testifying for Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, & Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

My name is Gino Soquena and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council which represents 18 construction trade unions in the State of Hawaii but tesifying as an individual and as one of the newest board members of the Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii.

I SUPPORT Bill SB163 with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

My family has witnessed first hand of what it is like to have a loved one struggle with a form of dementia. That is why I volunteer my time to help the Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii find a cure and help those who are affected in any way from this disease.

SB163 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Gino Soquena



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 1:00 p.m. State Capitol; Conference Room 225 Via Videoconference

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0163, RELATING TO HEALTH.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, 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 **<u>SUPPORTS</u>** Senate Bill No. 0163.

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 \$1,000,000, in general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024, and the same amount for fiscal year 2024-2025, for an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign that educates the public on early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and benefits of discussing changes in memory and thinking with health care professionals;
- (2) Authorize the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Alzheimer's disease and related dementias services coordinator position within the Executive Office on Aging; and
- (3) Specify that the funds be expended by the Executive Office on Aging; and
- (4) Take effect on July 1, 2023.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0163 Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 1:00 p.m. Page 2

The HPCA wishes to acknowledge the work of the Alzheimer 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. Because of this, authorizing the appropriation for multiple fiscal years will provide the Executive Office on Aging with the flexibility essential to ensure that the publicity campaign in Hawaii will coincide with similar campaigns across the nation.

We note that the full time equivalent position mentioned in SECTION 2 of the bill has already been provided for in the base Executive Budget and does not appear to be necessary. As such, the HPCA supports the amendment proposed by the Alzheimer Association to eliminate this language from the bill.

With this amendment, 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.

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 Health and Human Services Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 1:00 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill No. 163, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I am Ron Shimabuku, newly on-boarded Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. I am here to testify in <u>SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 163 and offer</u> <u>amendments for your consideration</u>.

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 an increase in confusion or worsening memory loss, putting them at risk of later developing dementia.

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 of the utmost importance to ensure disease 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 \$1,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum or so much thereof for fiscal year 2024-2025 to fund an Alzheimer's public health campaign. The bill would further require establishing one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Alzheimer's disease and related dementias service coordinator position. The Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests the removal of this position referenced in "SECTION 2" as it currently exists within the Executive Office on Aging.

With this removal, the Alzheimer's Association strongly urges your favorable consideration of this bill as it will focus on educating the public on the early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact Ron Shimabuku at 808.451.3410 or rkshimabuku@alz.org.

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

NITEHERE!

Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

January 31, 2023

Cade Watanabe, Senior Vice-President

Committee on Health and Human Services Senator San Buenaventura, Chair Senator Aquino, Vice Chair



Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and health care industries. **UNITE HERE Local 5 supports SB 163**, with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position – it is our understanding that the position is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

Many of our members have been touched by this heart-breaking disease, myself included. In 2015, my family began the difficult journey to care for a loved one diagnosed with dementia. We had little understanding of the disease itself, the legal and financial burdens, the mental, physical and emotional toll on us as caregivers. There are five of us siblings caring for one family member and we would have appreciated this type of program.

SB 163 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value to early detection and diagnosis, and discuss the 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 testify. Joli Tokusato



<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:31:19 PM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivy Castellanos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ivy Castellanos and **I strongly support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

My beloved Nana passed away many years ago, having suffered from vascular dementia for over a decade. My family and I did the best we could, but if I knew then what I know now in terms of early diagnosis, available support and resources, and long-term care planning, it would have spared our family a great deal of heartache and perhaps afforded my Nana with a better quality of life during her final years. There are so many myths and misconceptions about Alzheimer's and dementia, and such stigma surrounding these conditions. Awareness and education are key.

SB163 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.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Ivy Castellanos

45-224 Wena Street

Kane'ohe, HI 96744

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:51:04 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Wyatt	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen Wyatt and I am the President of Hale Haui`oli Hawaii, a non-profit group of adult day care centers. **I support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

Educating the public on Alzheimer's and related dementias is extremely important. I care for more than 80 kupuna with dementia every day. I hear from caregivers about how they are devastated and afraid when their loved one is diagnosed with dementia. They don't know which way to turn, they don't know what they might face as the disease progresses, and they are overwhelmed. With the increase in cases of Alzheimer's and related dementias in Hawai`i every year.

SB163 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Kathleen Wyatt

808-292-4665

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/27/2023 11:34:27 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must do what we can to take care of our elderly and their families.

I support this bill

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2023 10:45:49 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori McCarney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lori McCarney, current President of the volunteer Leadership Board of the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter. **I support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

Awareness about and understanding of Alzheimer's is low, particularly among our underserved communities. Many do not know that this disease is not normal aging. It is a disease that slowly and consistently ravages the brain until it finally kills you. That is what happened to my father--I was with him many of the 8 years he (and our family) suffered with the disease until he finally succumbed in 2016.

I am excited about new treatments approved by the FDA and a number of others on the path to approval very soon. However, these treatments are only helpful if Alzheimer's is detected early and treatments begun. It is critical all of the people of Hawaii know about this so they can take action before progression makes treatment too late.

SB163 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lori McCarney

lmccarney@hawaii.rr.com

808-347-0833

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2023 11:19:55 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Hara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Calvin M. Hara, a concerned resident and advocate for kupuna in our state. **I support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

There is a need to broaden the aware 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.

SB163 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.

Mahalo.

Calvin M. Hara

email: cmhara@comcast.net

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/27/2023 10:01:00 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nancy Rose and I am a volunteer of The Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter. **I support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

My father suffered a 10-15 year decline into some form of dementia; he was never properly diagnosed. He was cared for at home by his wife until he became increasingly violent and she could no longer manage his care. It is in his memory that I volunteer.

SB163 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

2815 Palalani Street Pukalani, HI 96768

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 163 RELATING TO HEALTH Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 1:00 pm Conference Room 225 & Videoconference State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Riley Yoshio Regan.** I am 17 years old, and I support any efforts to help address Alzheimer's Disease and dementia affecting many residents of Hawaii and beyond.

I support SB163 with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign.

Sadly, I am passionate about helping Alzheimer's Association because my Grandpa Araki, with whom I live, suffers from Alzheimer's Disease.

SB163 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 allowing me to submit testimony.

Riley Yoshio Regan 808-757-8242

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2023 11:36:24 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon takaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gordon Takaki and I am a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Assocation. I **support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services cordinator position. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's didease and related dementias public health campaign.

I continue to support finding a cure for Alzheimer as there are many friends and family members who currently live with this disease or have passed due to this dreaded disease including my late fatherTsutomuTakaki.

SB163 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 the disease, with the intent to improve the lives of Hawaii residents impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Gordon Takaki

(808)430-5720

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/27/2023 9:36:30 AM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Shimabuku **I support SB163** with a request to remove any reference to establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator position, as it is currently filled. When amended, this bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

My mother whose 92 years of age was diagnosed 10 years ago as having Dementia. Her doctor knew the symptoms and we read/heard of Alzheimer's Disease from many media sources back then. Instead of hiring a coordinator, the best scenario would be to put it to use that money as an awareness campaign. We already have an established Alzheimer's Organization that you could use and work together with.

SB163 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.

<u>SB-163</u> Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:39:10 PM Testimony for HHS on 2/1/2023 1:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Aquino,

Thank you for the opportunity to **SUPPORT** SB163: Relating to Health. More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million. 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Please help to educate the public on this growing health crisis by funding this public health campaign.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Au

Honolulu, HI 96814