



**SB2305 SD2 HD2**  
**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**  
House Committee on Finance

March 27, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2305 SD2 HD2**, which would establish a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled and appropriate funds.

Establishing a silver alert program in Hawai‘i to protect vulnerable kūpuna and individuals with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities who may go missing is essential for ensuring the safety and security of our elders and those with special needs. Moreover, the proposed silver alert program aligns perfectly with the values and priorities outlined in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs’ Strategic Plan, Mana i Maui Ola. This strategic plan emphasizes the foundational pillar of ‘ohana (family) as a fundamental influence on the well-being of Native Hawaiians. Additionally for Native Hawaiians, our kūpuna are the ‘ipu of our people’s cultural knowledge, values, mo‘ōlelo, and language. Ka na‘auao o nā kūpuna ka lama e ho‘omālamalama i ke ala no nā keiki. The wisdom of the elders is the torch that enlightens the path of the children. By establishing a silver alert program, we honor our ‘ohana and uphold our commitment to promoting the holistic well-being of our community.

Alzheimer's disease affects 29,000 people aged 65 and older in Hawai‘i and is expected to rise to 35,000 by 2025. It poses a significant health crisis for our community. Older adults with Alzheimer's and related dementias are at high risk of wandering, which can lead to harm or even accidental death in addition to immense stress for caregivers. These statistics underscore the urgent need for a silver alert program to protect our kūpuna and individuals with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities. The establishment of a silver alert program is a proactive measure to address this crisis and ensure the safety of our kupuna.



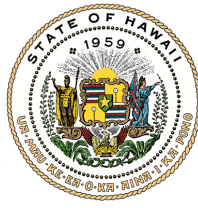
**SB2305 SD2 HD2**  
**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**  
House Committee on Finance

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Silver alert programs have been successfully implemented in 37 other states, highlighting their effectiveness in rapidly disseminating information about missing vulnerable persons. By leveraging existing broadcast platforms, mobile devices, and media outlets, a silver alert program can quickly reach law enforcement and members of the public, facilitating the safe recovery of missing individuals. With proper resources and coordination, the Department of Law Enforcement has the capacity to effectively manage and collaborate with local law enforcement, city and county agencies, and community members to ensure the success of the silver alert program. The goal of a silver alert program is to quickly disseminate information about endangered persons to law enforcement and members of the general public, ultimately keeping our kūpuna safe.

OHA asks that this committee **advance SB 2305 SD2 HD2** and thereby take decisive action to establish a silver alert program in Hawai‘i. By doing so, we uphold the values of ‘ohana, and demonstrate our commitment to protecting the well-being of Native Hawaiian and all communities. Mahalo for your attention to this critical issue that affects the lives of our kūpuna and vulnerable individuals.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT  
Deputy Director  
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT GOVERNOR  
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*

715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2305, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Before the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

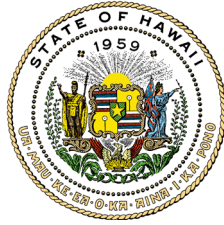
Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2 and requests the original appropriation amount of \$250,000.

This bill establishes a Silver Alert program within the DLE to give the community a critical tool to help locate and protect missing kupuna and those who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. We currently have the Amber Alert program to serve the same function for endangered children and youth. However, a similar tool currently does not exist for the elderly, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. This bill helps fill this extremely needed void for the protection of these people.

The DLE requests that the original appropriation amount of \$250,000 be included in this measure.

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



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

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

**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR  
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

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(808) 586-0185

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2305 SD2 HD2**  
**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

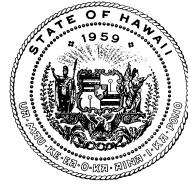
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
REP. LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 P.M., Conference Room 308

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **strongly supports** the intent of this measure, provided that its enactment does
- 3 not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's executive budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law
- 6 Enforcement to locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years or older,
- 7 cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. By 2025, the number of people living with
- 8 Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i is expected to rise to 35,000. A person with dementia may not

- 1 remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six
- 2 in ten people with dementia will wander at some point.
- 3 Establishing a silver alert program that can quickly alert the public about the missing person is
- 4 critical to find and help vulnerable individuals with Alzheimer’s and/or dementia and individuals
- 5 with cognitive impairments and/or developmental disabilities.
- 6 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports the intent of this measure and defers to the
- 7 Department of Law Enforcement for implementation.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE  
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
415 S.BERETANIA ST. #415  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony of Tia L.R. Hartsock  
Director, Office of Wellness and Resilience**

**House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**S.B. No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR), housed in the Office of the Governor, **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2305 S.D.2 H.D.2, Relating to Missing Persons so long as it does not adverse impact priorities identified in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request for FY2025.

Established through Act 291, the overall aim of the OWR is to make Hawai'i a trauma-informed state. One of our priority areas focuses on breaking down barriers that impact the physical, social, and emotional well-being of Hawai'i's people. We explore avenues to increase access and availability to mental, behavioral, social, and emotional health services and support.

Alzheimer's disease affects 29,000 people aged 65 and older in Hawai'i, making it a growing health crisis. Older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are at high risk of wandering, leading to harm, accidental death, and care partner stress<sup>1</sup>. S.B. 2305 S.D.2 H.D.2 establishes a program that quickly broadcasts information state-wide, about missing persons who are sixty-five years or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled and determined to be at risk.

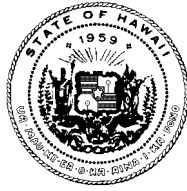
By passing this measure, the State would allow the Hawai'i community to better protect this vulnerable population collectively. We strongly believe that this measure not only addresses the well-being of kupuna themselves, but also addresses the caregivers' well-being who are under high stress when their loved ones go missing, by providing them an evidence-based tool with high-success rates in thirty-seven other states.

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

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<sup>1</sup> US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC WONDER online database: about underlying cause of death, 1999-2019. 2022. Accessed September 26, 2022. <https://wonder.cdc.gov>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 26, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Cathy Betts, Director  
SUBJECT: **SB 2305 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Hearing: March 27, 2024, 3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Executive Office on Aging. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** This bill establishes a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

The Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2042, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Committee on Ways and Means (SD2) further amended the measure by changing the appropriation to an unspecified sum to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

The Committee on Human Services (HD1) amended the measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Committee on Judiciary and Native Hawaii Affairs (HD2) further amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying the definition of "developmentally disabled";
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS acknowledges that establishing a Silver Alert system raises privacy concerns for the individual as well as the individual's family and may not be very effective if the system is not sufficiently resourced and coordinated. However, a [recent article](#) analyzing Silver Alert activations in Texas from 2017-2022 described high activations involving older men using vehicles on holidays and Wednesdays during the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Perhaps additional resources and strategies for providers and families could be developed to raise awareness about access to cars.

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





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 27, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita  
House Committee on Finance  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2305 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **support of SB2305 SD2 HD2**, which establishes a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Silver Alerts, such as those activated under SB2305 SD2 HD2, are vital tools in ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities who may go missing. These alerts provide immediate information to the public, facilitating swift action to locate and safeguard at-risk persons. Given the vulnerability of individuals with developmental disabilities to wandering and becoming lost, the implementation of Silver Alerts in Hawaii is crucial for their protection.

The success of Silver Alert programs in thirty-seven other states, as highlighted by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), underscores their effectiveness in aiding the recovery of at-risk individuals. By enacting SB2305 SD2 HD2, Hawaii has the opportunity to join the ranks of states with robust missing person alert systems, thereby enhancing the safety and security of all residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong **support of SB2305 SD2 HD2**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the

### House Committee on Finance

March 27, 2024; 3:30 PM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of

### Senate Bill 2305 SD2 HD2 Relating to Missing Persons

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i submits this testimony in **strong support** on SB 2305 SD2 HD2 which establishes a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age and older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled, and appropriates funds.

Silver Alerts have proven effective in thirty-seven other states which have been modeled after the Amber Alert Program. With the dissemination of information on multiple platforms, this program will assist law enforcement to locate and protect the elderly and other vulnerable persons in the State.

We share the passion to support our kupuna and developmentally disabled persons and know that this program will not only help them, but also spare their families the added time of worry when not knowing the whereabouts or condition of their loved ones.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** on this measure.

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**STEPHEN L. FRYE**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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FAX: (808) 887-3016

## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 2305 SD2 HD2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 308  
And Via Video Conference

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance, the County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of the passage of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD2.

This bill was drafted with the intent to establish a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled and appropriates funding for said program.

Implementing a silver alert program is necessary and will save lives. Based on our research, Hawai‘i is one of a few states that does not have an official silver alert program. We have all heard the tragic stories of family members who have lost loved ones. Lives that may have not been lost if information had been widely disseminated in a timely fashion. The goal of a silver alert program is to quickly disseminate information about endangered persons to law enforcement and members of the general public by utilizing various broadcast platforms, mobile devices, and media outlets. We recognize the effectiveness of similar programs, such as the AMBER alert system, in communicating emergency alerts.

The Department of Law Enforcement (“DLE”) is a state agency with a presence on all islands. DLE have the staff, personnel, resources, and relationships with the individual counties to adequately manage and work collaboratively with local law enforcement, city and county agencies/departments, community stakeholders, and others to keep our kupuna safe.

For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai‘i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
Mayor



**Benjamin T. Moszkowicz**  
Police Chief

**Reed K. Mahuna**  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawai'i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi'olani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

March 26, 2024

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita  
Committee on Finance  
Chairperson and Committee Members  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita:

RE: SENATE BILL (SB) 2305, SD2, HD2, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS  
HEARING DATE: MARCH 27, 2024  
TIME: 3:30 PM

The Hawai'i Police Department is in support of SB 2305, SD2, HD2, which establishes the Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

A high priority is placed on law enforcement responses to reports of missing persons considered endangered due to suspicious circumstances, age, cognitive impairment, or developmental disability. In situations like these, time is of the essence and all available tools, to include public messaging and alert notification systems, are utilized in efforts to safely locate the missing individual. Although our department already has missing persons procedures in place, passage of this bill will enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies by offering a notification system with a broad community reach, which can aid in locating a missing person in an expeditious manner.

It is for these reasons, that we urge this committee to approve this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to Senate Bill 2305.

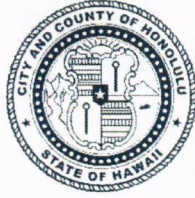
Sincerely,

BENJAMIN T. MOSZKOWICZ  
POLICE CHIEF

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MAKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF  
KAHU MAKA'I  
  
KEITH K. HORIKAWA  
RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS  
HOPE LUNA NUI MAKA'I

OUR REFERENCE VL-BT

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons

I am Vince Legaspi, Acting Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports with concerns Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons.

In 2005, the MAILE AMBER Alert program was established in Honolulu and since then, we utilized it twice, most recently on February 13, 2024. The strict criteria placed on this program prevent misuse and the oversaturation of alerts. In 2022, the HPD's Missing Persons Detail began working on updating our practices to be consistent with national standards. Our procedures were severely outdated, and we were not utilizing the available resources and technology. The Missing Persons Detail consulted with a former coordinator of the AMBER Alert program for the state of California and received valuable insight to ensure that the program would be successful and to review some of the pitfalls that we may encounter in the future.

There are approximately 11 different types of alerts that some states have adopted on top of the AMBER Alert. All of these alerts have significance within their specific communities, and passing this bill will allow other groups to advocate for the addition of another alert to the existing program. If these additional alerts are added, it will greatly diminish the importance of the core reason for the program, which is to locate and recover abducted children. The oversaturation of alerts may cause the public to be desensitized and turn off notifications on their personal electronic devices under the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system.

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
and Members  
Page 2  
March 27, 2024

On February 13, 2024, the HPD utilized all of the tools mentioned in this bill. The two children were located in less than ten minutes once the alert was activated. It has taken nearly two years to get to this point, however, the program still needs improvements. We have two full-time detectives assigned to the Missing Persons Detail and the recent activation of the MAILE AMBER Alert required no additional funds.


Statistically, the HPD has done an excellent job in locating individuals over the age of 65. Since 2020, the HPD had more than 100 cases per year with a closure rate of 99 percent. There were approximately 20 individuals who were found deceased before the missing person's report was made. Only one was found deceased after the report was made.

The HPD is successful in our current efforts to locate our keiki and kūpuna. The investigating agency should be the one to put out the alert because the information comes in quickly and time is of the essence. Sharing information with an outside agency will only delay the safe recovery efforts.

The HPD supports with concerns Senate Bill No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Missing Persons.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Vince Legaspi, Acting Captain  
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:

  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on SB2305, SD2, HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **supports** SB2305, SD2, HD2, which establishes, and appropriates funds for, a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

The growing number Alzheimer’s disease cases, as well as other forms of dementia, represents a health crisis that is currently impacting tens of thousands of families across the State. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 36,000.

Furthermore, 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.

Silver Alert or similar programs have been established in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Hawaii is one of the few states that does not have a public notification system that can aid in the recovery of missing persons with a cognitive impairment. UPW believes that a Silver Alert program is desperately needed to ensure our State can protect these individuals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner  
State Director

**HEADQUARTERS**

1426 North School Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914  
Phone 808.847.2631

**HAWAII**

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**MAUI**

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

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
Conference Room 308, 3:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i  
RE: Support for S.B. 2305 SD2, HD2 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Yamashita, 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. 2305 SD2 ,HD2** which establishes a silver alert program within the Dept. of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety.

With the rapidly aging population in Hawaii, the number of person afflicted with the Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related conditions is also increasing. Unfortunately, six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address — and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Having a statewide Silver Alert, a public notification system used to broadcast information about missing persons, will help find and protect vulnerable persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia who wander. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized Silver Alert. We are long overdue for a system that will aid in the missing person's recovery and safe return back home.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support.





**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2305, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

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 bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish a “Silver Alert” Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to alert the public of missing persons for whom there is a credible threat to their health and safety;
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to establish the “Silver Alert” Program; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 3000.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m.  
Page 2**

According to the Center for Disease Control:

- Alzheimer's disease is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States;
- The 6<sup>th</sup> leading of death among US adults; and
- The 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults aged 65 years or older.

In 2023, an estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 year or older had Alzheimer's disease. **This number is projected to nearly triple to 14 million people by 2060.**

Further, death rates for Alzheimer's disease are increasing, unlike heart disease and cancer death rates that are on the decline. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, has shown to be under-reported in death certificates and therefore the proportion of older people who die from Alzheimer's may be considerably higher.

In Hawaii, Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis:

- 29,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in Hawaii;
- 6.7% of people aged 45 and older have subjective cognitive decline;
- 60,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in Hawaii;
- 91 million hours of unpaid care are provided by Alzheimer's caregivers;
- \$1.9 billion is the value of the unpaid care; and
- \$240 million is the cost of Alzheimer's to the State Medicaid Program.

For these reasons, during the interim prior to the 2024 Regular Session, the HPCA worked closely with the Hawaii Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in researching, drafting, and providing outreach on the bill that is presently before you. Accordingly, we are honored to partner with the Alzheimer's Association on this important measure and urge your favorable consideration.

The HPCA acknowledges the concerns raised by the Honolulu Police Department and is working with the Alzheimer's Association to see if a compromise can be reached before the adjournment sine die of the 2024 Regular Session. These efforts have also included communications with the other County police departments and the responses received so far have been positive.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m.  
Page 3**

For sake of facilitating continued discussion, the HPCA respectfully urges 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@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 p. m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 308 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2305 SD 2 HD 2 Relating to Missing Persons

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training. I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty-five years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition.

The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2305 SD 2 HD 2, which establishes a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled; and appropriates funds.

The silver alert program can save lives.

We urge you to support the silver alert program and SB 2305 SD 2 HD 2, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Simon".

Gary Simon



Email [gsimon@aarp.org](mailto:gsimon@aarp.org)



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2305 SD2 HD2:  
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

**Hearing: Wednesday, 3/27/24; 3:30 pm; via Videoconference or CR 308**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 2305 SD2 HD2**, which establishes a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons, who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled. Appropriates funds. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the US that does not have a formalized silver alert program. Kupuna in Hawaii are rapidly increasing. More kupuna with dementia and Alzheimer's disease can result in more behaviors that put these vulnerable people at great risk. This can bring trauma and anxiety both to the individual and families who care for these increasingly frail and vulnerable elders. **Six in ten people with dementia will wander off at some point. They may not know their name or address and especially who their caregiver is.**

A silver alert program would help to identify missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. It would help to provide a safe return of these lost individuals to their families and caregivers. What a relief for families to have a silver alert program to contact when they cannot locate their missing loved ones.

Take action now! Please help protect our vulnerable kupuna and others with cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities by passing this bill.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808) 527-4813 •



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 6:12:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Louis Erteschik     | Hawaii Disability Rights Center | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

At previous Hearings on this issue I referenced a personal experience where I saw what happened when a person with dementia wandered off and I saw the lack of coordination between the Police Department and others who were trying to find this person. It is clear to me that a mechanism such as a Silver Alert is needed and would improve our efforts to keep such people safe. An aunt of some close friends of mine was missing for over 24 hours. A police report had been filed with HPD and there was a television alert regarding her. Yet, HPD came upon her only because she walked into a beauty salon and the proprietor called the police. In her purse, thankfully, was a note to call her niece if she were ever found. That was why she was successfully re-united with her family. Despite the Missing Person Report and the TV spot, HPD never made any connection with the fact that they were supposed to be looking for this woman. So, clearly the current system has some gaps and holes and a Silver Alert would have to help remedy that situation.

I was quite surprised to see the opposition testimony of HPD at the recent hearing before the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. They apparently feel this Silver Alert will confuse the current Amber Alert. Yet, they indicated that the Amber Alert has been used merely two or three times in the past twenty years. It is inconceivable that this would interfere with that. I would expect the Police Department to welcome any tool that will assist them in finding lost kupuna.

We hope that the Legislature will pass this measure notwithstanding the concern of HPD and we hope that as the session progresses HPD will see the wisdom and value of this project.



March 25, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD2, HD2 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: Wednesday, March 27th, 3:30 PM

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA supports SB 2305 SD2, HD2 as the bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. HPHA strongly supports SB 2305 SD2, HD2 and respectfully asks that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director



March 27, 2024

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 2305 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2305 SD2 HD2, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that there were 29,000 older adults (65 years and older) living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i in 2020 with a projected 35,000 in that demographic by 2025. We appreciate the efforts of the legislature to help support not only our Kupuna, but their families and caregivers as well. Strengthening the health and well-being of Hawaii is our shared priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations



HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS  
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans  
c/o Hawaii Education Association  
1953 Beretania Street, #5C  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 2305, SD2, HD2**  
Relating to Missing Persons

Hearing: Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308  
and Video Conference

House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA is in **strong support** of S.B. 2305, SD2, HD2, which establishes a Silver Alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

***HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 21,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA's affiliates include retired members of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, AFT, IAM, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.***

Individuals with cognitive impairment, including those with dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and developmental disabilities, are particularly vulnerable if they wander away from family or caregivers and are unable to share with others who they are or where they live. The longer an elderly or cognitively impaired person is left to wander, the greater the likelihood of increased disorientation and injury, or even death.

With a Silver Alert program, the public will be more alert to kupuna and others who appear to be lost or unsure of where or who they are. Even kupuna without a cognitive impairment may need special assistance in unfamiliar situations. A Silver Alert will ensure that appropriate authorities can be contacted more quickly so the person can be returned home safely.

Subsection (g) (3) of S.B. 2305 specifies that the "person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances." We hope this condition does not compromise the intent of the bill as those with cognitive impairment are vulnerable simply because of their impairments, which are neither "unexplained" nor "under suspicious circumstances."

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans requests that subsection (g) (3) be reconsidered and urges passage of S.B. 2305, SD2, HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



March 26, 2024

House Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Reps. Micah P.K. Aiu, Cory M. Chun, Elle Cochran, Andrew Takuya Garrett, Kirstin Kahaloa, Darius K. Kila, Bertrand Kobayashi, Rachele F. Lamosao, Dee Morikawa, Scott Y. Nishimoto, Mahina Poepoe, Jenna Takenouchi, David Alcos III, and Gene Ward, Members

**RE: SB 2305 Relating to Missing Persons – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this letter in support of SB 2305 on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii. Easterseals Hawaii served over 2,300 Hawaii community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2023. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with I/DD can choose their own path.

SB 2305 aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Many persons with I/DD are prone to elopement which can lead them to become separated from their friends and family. Furthermore, many such individuals are unable to communicate their needs and basic information to strangers in a distressing situation such as separation. Some do not use any spoken communication. These factors render the I/DD community especially at risk of adverse outcomes if they become missing persons. A silver alert program will significantly increase the chances of individuals with I/DD returning home.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Easterseals Hawaii supports SB 2305 and respectfully requests your “aye” vote.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Liebert Lewis".

Rachel Liebert Lewis

Legislative Researcher and Policy Architect

Easterseals Hawaii

Testimony before the House  
Committee on Finance

SB 2305, SD 2, HD 2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

By Glen Higa, President  
Hawaii Parkinson Association

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Parkinson Association strongly supports SB 2305, SD 2 HD 2. The purpose of this bill is to establish a Silver Alert program modeled after the AMBER Alert Program to help locate and safeguard missing persons 65 years of age or older who are cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing neurological diseases, with someone in the U.S. diagnosed every six minutes. In Hawaii, approximately 8,000 people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's and that number is expected to double by 2030. Up to 80% will also suffer from cognitive impairment or dementia because of Parkinson's disease. And there is no cure.

Six years ago, I was diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's disease which means I was diagnosed before the age of 50. Since my diagnosis, I left my career as a sales executive, embraced exercise as therapy and have delayed the symptoms progression to the point where I am now a fitness trainer working exclusively with people with Parkinson's, became President of Hawaii Parkinson Association, resumed playing competitive softball, participated in the Los Angeles Dodgers Adult Baseball Camp and most recently, been selected to deliver the keynote speech at the Parkinson's Wellness Recovery Retreat in Tucson, AZ in May.

But many others are not as fortunate as I am, especially our kupuna with Parkinson's. Potential thinking and memory changes associated with Parkinson's include forgetfulness, confusion while doing everyday activities, lack of judgment, paranoia, anxiety, hallucinations, delusions and personality changes.

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Dementia in Parkinson's not only affects the patient, it also can severely impact the care partner and other loved ones. Care partner stress, burnout and strain are commonly associated with significant cognitive decline in persons with Parkinson's.

A person with Parkinson's is also prone to wandering. One of the little-known dangers of wandering is people with Parkinson's are often on a strict medication protocol with doses required to be taken in a timely manner. Parkinson's medications do not cure the condition but rather minimize the symptoms and allow patients to conduct activities of daily living. Delaying medications by as little as one hour may cause worsening motor symptoms such as tremors, loss of balance, rigidity and non-motor symptoms such as confusion, agitation and difficulty communicating.

In Hawai'i we take care of each other, especially our kupuna and it is vitally important that we have a system in place to keep them safe. Hawai'i is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized system in place. We strongly urge the Committee to pass this bill to enable us to begin to put one together.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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*The Hawaii Parkinson Association is a local all-volunteer nonprofit organization and was established in 1996. The Association's primary mission is to positively impact the lives of those affected by Parkinson's Disease through support, education, programs, and other services.*

## 2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

Lori McCarney, Chair  
*Community Advocate*

Dr. Pokii Balaz, Immediate  
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LJ R. Duenas  
*Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association*

## Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Videoconference

### RE: SENATE BILL 2305 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association–Aloha Chapter serves the residents of Hawaii to help all those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives. We testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD2 and offer amendments for your consideration.**

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged sixty-five and older live with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is projected to increase to over 35,000 by next year. 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.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of a blank amount or so much thereof for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Department of Law Enforcement to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. This will be made effective on July 1, 3000.

Our research indicates that Hawaii is the only state that does not have a formalized silver alert program. There is no federal funding or mandate for it. It is the onus of the state or jurisdiction to establish the alert in statute, policy, or procedure. Across the nation, we have seen varying population criteria used, which include an age requirement, cognitive impairment, or developmental disability.

During the interim before the 2024 Regular Session, the Alzheimer's Association entered into discussions on a silver alert program with various community and business organizations, government agencies, and public and private sector unions, which is reflected in the testimony submitted on this measure and its companion, House Bill No. 1774. Among these stakeholders are the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), Department of Transportation (HDOT), Department of Human Services (DHS), Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), AARP Hawaii, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, Papa Ola Lokahi, Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA), Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI), the Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Kokua Council, Hawaii Parkinson Association (HPA), Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), Hawaii Association for Behavioral Analysis (HABA), Easterseals Hawaii, Hawaii Association for Retired Americans (HARA), Oahu Search and Rescue (OSAR), the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), United Public Workers (UPW), Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA), UNITE HERE! Local 5, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 142, Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996, Ironworkers Local 625, and Chamber of Commerce Hawaii. All have supported the silver alert and understand the critical need for our communities.

In addition, to learn from existing silver alert programs, the Alzheimer's Association led discussions between Representative Cory Chun, DLE, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the New Jersey State Police. They all manage the Silver Alert program in their respective states or jurisdictions. Although their processes and criteria may differ, we learned that the program effectively assists with recovering missing vulnerable persons. California has six recognized types of alerts, all of which are managed by CHP's Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC). In 2023, ENTAC issued 189 silver alerts. Of those, 181 were recovered, with 5 deceased. This staggering information validates the significance of a missing persons alert.

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

- (1) **Appropriate \$250,000 to plan and implement the silver alert in Hawaii.**
- (2) **This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2024.**

The Alzheimer's Association remains steadfast in its position to seek a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of persons living with dementia and their families and effectively disseminates relevant information about missing individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias to the appropriate local law enforcement and community support networks. **We ask you to pass Senate Bill No. 2305 SD2 HD2 with these amendments.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact Ron Shimabuku at 808.451.3410 or [rkshimabuku@alz.org](mailto:rkshimabuku@alz.org).



Ron Shimabuku  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Alzheimer's Association – Hawaii



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 27, 2024

S.B. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2— RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2 which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

It is imperative that we look-out for the safety and wellbeing of our kupuna and if they go missing it is critical that they be found as soon as possible. Implementing a silver alert program provides law enforcement with better tools to locate and rescue our kupuna. Community awareness and involvement can aid law enforcement by providing critical and lightning-fast information on the whereabouts of a kupuna, which can be extremely beneficial in the unfortunate event that they go missing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director





March 27, 2024

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance (FIN)

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 PM. State Capitol, Conf. Room 308 or via Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2305 SD2 HD2– RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), we urge your **SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2305 SD2 HD2, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**. This bill supports a critical priority for the epilepsy community – safety and continuity of care in the event of a seizure. This bill seeks to establish a Silver Alert Program in Hawaii. This critical initiative aims to assist in the rapid location and safeguarding of individuals aged sixty-five or older who may be cognitively impaired, developmentally disabled, including someone who suffers from seizures or seizure disorders.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy throughout Hawaii. Collectively, we foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition characterized by seizures, which are sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain, that affects a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy, and approximately 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure, at some point in their lifetime.

The establishment of a Silver Alert Program is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of a vulnerable segment of our population. Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy are common nervous system diseases in older adults, and their incidence rates tend to increase with age. As our society continues to age, the likelihood of encountering seniors facing cognitive impairment or developmental disabilities increases.

The Silver Alert Program, modeled after the successful AMBER Alert system for missing children, will provide an invaluable tool for law enforcement agencies to quickly disseminate information about missing seniors to the public. This rapid response can significantly increase the chances of locating the missing person before they face harm or danger.

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, we humbly urge your **SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2305 SD2 HD2**.

Mahalo nui loa,

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at [epilepsy.com/advocacy](https://www.epilepsy.com/advocacy).**



*Kristina Hulama*

Kristina Hulama, LSW  
Program Coordinator  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at [epilepsy.com/advocacy](http://epilepsy.com/advocacy).**

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 3:20:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By     | Organization           | Testifier Position | Testify   |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Rielle Rasmussen | Oahu Search and Rescue | Support            | In Person |

Comments:

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2**

**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm**

**Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**[415 South Beretania Street](#)**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rielle Rasmussen, and I am the canine handler for Oahu Search and Rescue. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate bill 2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons. I am here to voice the support of this bill both of my own accord and on behalf of Oahu Search and Rescue.

Let me start by saying that yes, I do have personal experience with being the sole caregiver of family members of advanced age and whom were afflicted by memory loss.

I know what its like to call to check in when they are supposed to be home, only to have the phone ring without answer. I know the build of anxiety as you wait for a call back that doesnt come. I know very well the panic and hysteria as you race down the freeway to their home, while thinking the worst and praying that youre wrong. I am also FORTUNATE enough to know the

knee weakening relief that comes from flying open their door and finding them sitting at home safe and sound. But what if they weren't? What would I do? Would anyone help me? These are the unfathomable questions I asked myself after every episode.

It is these questions, and the underacknowledged reality of their answers that I am here to testify about. I was lucky enough not to have to face the horror of an endangered loved one truly going missing, but so many families here on Oahu have not been so lucky. Others have been lucky enough to have their loved ones return on their own or are able to find them through community searches. The problem is just that. We are relying on LUCK as the primary solution to a serious and growing danger to our Kupuna. It is unacceptable that someone who meets the criteria of an endangered adult can go missing and that there is no appropriately scaled, proactive response in place to come to their immediate aid. Due to this lack of response and resource I started looking for my own ways to help this ever growing part of our community.

As a search and rescue canine handler I train specifically for walk away scenarios and have been privileged to join in the search for some of Oahu's missing. I have searched both with OSAR and privately. This past October, I received notice that a Mililani man with Dementia had gone missing from his home, and that his family was desperately seeking any assistance they could get in searching for him. This man's name is William Burr. It was 8 days past when I was made aware of Williams disappearance. The most crucial time to search is within the first four hours of someone going missing. Every hour that passes drops the probability of finding them alive significantly.

I was able to reach out to Williams family, and despite the immense odds against us being able to help that late in the timeline, they met with me and my canine immediately at the place William was last seen. Using Williams worn tshirt, my canine and I worked for 2 hours every day for 6 days straight in bits and pieces. She followed whatever scent she could find until we unfortunately lost his trail completely. On our searches we handed out fliers and spoke to local residents and frequenters of the area. It was shocking to see first hand, that despite William Burr being on crimestoppers, most of the people I spoke to had no knowledge that someone was missing at all.

Search for a person in itself is an emergency, and quick and decisive reaction time is key. The 24 hours or so that passed between William going missing and the information being made public lost any "unknowing witnesses" we may have had in helping to find him. These are not statistics...these are people. That few percent of "un closed" cases? That's someone mother or father....someone's grandparent or friend. The lack of resources available to search for William from the time he walked away until the time he was located is heartbreaking. If there had been an immediate response and appropriate resources deployed there is a good chance that the outcome of Williams search may have been very different. The fact that there is nothing in place in Hawaii to at least give our Kupuna and their families the best chance of coming home is unacceptable.

We in Hawaii as a whole are almost immune to seeing someone walking in a daze down the middle of the road. It seems it is common practice to turn away from someone muttering to themselves and acting strangely, when another look and a few seconds of attention could easily alert us to the fact that something isn't right. We NEED the Silver Alert in Hawaii. We need it to make us aware as a community. To reset our viewpoint when our daily lives program us to walk past and not notice the old woman or man walking alone and seeming out of place. We need it to

set up deployable action based resources so that these families arent left to plead for help and to search alone. We need to stop depending on luck and be proactive in protecting our Kupuna and other endangered adults. On behalf of myself, and Oahu Search and Rescue We strongly request that Senate Bill 2305 be passed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Rielle C. Rasmussen Honolulu, Hawaii rasmussen753@gmail.com



March 27, 2024

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the House Committee on Finance  
In Support of

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**SB 2305 SD2 HD2 - RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 2305, which establishes a silver alert program to assist in locating missing persons, especially kūpuna, who may be cognitively impaired or developmentally disabled.

The mission of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is to effectively advocate for the educational, civic, health, cultural, economic, and social well-being of our lāhui. We are especially concerned about the care of kūpuna and we support this measure as it can be a helpful tool in locating a kūpuna who may have wandered from their home or family due to dementia or Alzheimer's. Many of our members have family who are directly affected by dementia and have experienced cases of wandering. Those who wander may display signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility as they forget memories of family and societal norms. We also note that the State of Hawai'i is one of few jurisdictions that do not have a formal system in place designed to help locate lost loved ones.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 61 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,000 members located across Hawai'i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of this bill.



## INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-41

**HAWAII DIVISION:** 100 West Lanikoula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
**MAUI COUNTY DIVISION:** 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
**HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

### LOCAL 142

March 27, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024

#### THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

##### Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Wednesday, March 27, 2024; 3:30 p.m.

#### STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SB2305 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

I am writing on behalf of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142, representing 16,000 workers across the islands, to express our **strong support for Senate Bill 2305**, which aims to establish a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i faces a growing challenge with the aging population, particularly in the prevalence of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. According to a 2023 report published by the Alzheimer's Association, by next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i, is expected to rise to over 35,000, a more than 20% increase from 2020.

As many have already testified, kūpuna and people with Alzheimer's are vulnerable to wandering and becoming lost and disoriented. This can also lead to challenging behaviors when approached by others. Establishing a silver alert system rightfully provides resources to set up a system with trained professionals to respond to such situations properly and compassionately.

This issue is personal to the ILWU, as many of our members find themselves having to care for parents or relatives with Alzheimer's and dementia. It is a difficult and in many ways heartbreaking experience. We stand in full support of SB2305, establishing a silver alert system to protect our loved ones and support those who care for them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Christian West  
President, ILWU Local 142



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30PM  
Conference Room 308 & Video Conference**

**RE: SB2305 SD2 HD2 Relating to Missing Persons**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports SB2305 SD2 HD2**, establishes and appropriates funds for a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Aside from economic leadership, the Chamber also focuses on "quality of life" issues that impact our members, and their employees and families. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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, individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, placing them in precarious situations, escalating the need for quality caregiving. Based on feedback from our members, the lack of attention to the industry of Care is a contributing factor to workforce unavailability, which in turn affects and inhibits business growth.

The Chamber emphasizes Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. The Chamber supports this measure and would recognize its implementation as a further upgrade to our national standing and as of profound benefit to our local community.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.



**Hawai'i State House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Finance**  
SB 2305 – Relating to Missing Persons

RE: Support of SB 2305

March 27, 2024

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) writes in **strong support of SB 2305** to create a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. Silver alerts are a vital tool to protect our most at-risk kūpuna that ought to be implemented as soon as possible.

Silver alerts are a successful and established mechanism to locate missing persons who are particularly at-risk due to their age, health, or cognitive condition. Currently, there are forty-two states that have implemented silver alert programs to positive outcomes. Over the course of three years, Florida issued 377 silver alerts where 367 seniors were found safely. Due to the effectiveness of timely intervention and coordinated search efforts, at least 51 of those recoveries were attributed to the silver alert program. A similar program in Hawai'i could help save the lives of our most vulnerable populations.

In 2020, there were nearly 30,000 elderly individuals with Alzheimer's living in Hawai'i; that number is expected to increase to 35,000 over the next five years. Approximately six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point and, when individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, and hostility. This particular class of individuals requires more specified care and dedicated resources to ensure their safety. This bill would not only protect thousands of local residents, but it would also create a reliable way to support their caretakers and family members. The proposed silver alert program makes use of our existing broadcast systems to quickly deploy and coordinate between state and community resources. If passed, SB 2305 bridges a critical gap in our state's safety infrastructure.

This measure gives our kūpuna and their 'ohana the assistance and protection they deserve. For these reasons, we humbly ask that you **PASS SB 2305**.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

**Madelyn McKeague**  
Policy Manager, CNHA

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:44:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:45:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:46:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Johnny              | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:47:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:48:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill

March 27, 2024

To: Committee on Finance  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair;  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

Re: **SB 2305 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**  
**Testimony in Strong Support**

I strongly support SB 2305 SD2 HD2.

Hawaii needs a silver alert program that will notify the public of missing Kupuna who suffer from a cognitive impairment like Alzheimer's disease, other forms of dementia, or a developmental disability. My family has tragically suffered from Alzheimer's disease. My father and 3 uncles died from Alzheimer's. Families like mine were frightened and had the nagging fear that their loved one might wander away from family when at home or somewhere in the community. I feel that a silver alert program could be a life saver and a means to quickly locate missing individuals that suffer from cognitive impairment or a developmental disability.

The nearly 100,000 Hawaii residents and unpaid family caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease is reason enough to pass this bill. Six in ten people with dementia will wander and may be unable to remember their name or home address. When individuals with other forms of dementia, cognitive impairment and developmental disability are taken into consideration the need for a silver alert program is even more urgent and compelling.

A silver alert program may benefit your family, friends, or neighbors in the future. I urge you to pass this bill, as it just makes common sense.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steven Tam  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:13:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lena Suzuki         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

My name is Lena Suzuki, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:34:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify           |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Rose   | Individual   | Support            | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nancy Rose, and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My father lived with some form of dementia for at least 10 years. When he was still reasonably functional, he would walk around his neighborhood alone, one time coming home saying that he saw Ben Roethlisberger, the (then) quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers. As his disease progressed, he no longer took those walks, and I felt thankful to know that there was a silver alert system in place in the state he lived in, to help in case he became disoriented and lost.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Hawaii

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:56:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ohad                | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ohad Amidor; I am a student in the social work program at UH Manoa. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. We are the only state in the country that has no silver alert, and I believe it is time for us to join the rest. This bill is very important, and it can save many lives and help many families in times of desperate need.

My Grandmother-in-law is an Alzheimer's patient; she is in an advanced stage of the disease, and her level of confusion is sad to watch. She can wander and lose her way as he has no cognitive abilities that will help her know her way back home or the ability to contact her loved ones. She lives in Georgia, where the silver alert is in place. I hope that our state can give this service to all of its Kupunas.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. 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.

I request that SB 2305 be passed, it is long overdue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor,

Haiku, HI



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:59:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| BLYTH KOZUKI        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Blyth Kozuki, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

When someone goes missing, locating them quickly ensures the best outcome. Missing seniors may need daily medication to stabilize their health. They may be victimized by criminals because of their age and vulnerability. Their absence is traumatizing to their family and friends. I can think of nothing more tragic than a senior who is located too late to save and passes alone, scared and suffering. This situation requires acting immediately.

Establishing a silver alert mobilizes the entire community to locate the missing person. More eyes everywhere multiplies community resources to locate the missing senior. Hawaii has no formal program or mechanism to accomplish this. Hawaii has an aging population so the frequency of missing seniors would be expected to increase. Hawaii cares for its kupuna so it is imperative to pass SB2305 this session.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Blyth Kozuki

Sen. District 9, Hawaii Kai-Kahala-Diamond Head

 [n](#)

March 26, 2024

Chair, and Members of House Committee of Finance:

My name is Chalintorn Burian. I live in Paauilo on the Big Island. I strongly support SB2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

In 2023, my husband who was 85 years of age at that time, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Since then, I have always worried that he would go missing and in harms way.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo,

Chalintorn Burian

Paauilo, Hawaii 96776



**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2**

**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm**

**Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name Calvin Hara and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305. The bill establishes a silver alert program for Hawaii's kupuna. In my thirty-year career in senior care, I have seen many situations of missing seniors who had wandered from home due to cognitive decline. This situation is a concern for the health and well-being of the senior and the tremendous stress on family at the time of this crisis.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. Hawaii's people need legislation to help this vulnerable population of elders. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara  
Honolulu, Hawaii



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:23:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>       |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Todd Yukutake       | Individual          | Support                   | Remotely Via<br>Zoom |

Comments:

I support SB2305 to protect our seniors. The funding allocated to this program will be well worth it in order to save lives and to avoid larger expenditures involved later with a large search or treating injuries. Delaying notification of a missing persons will result in costly search and rescue operations later.

I found a lost senior with dementia late at night wandering around downtown late at night. I called 911 as the person had clear signs of dementia, didn't know where he was or where he lived at, and was out of place. It was only when police arrived that I found out he was reported missing 6 hours prior. If I hadn't taken the initiative to call 911, which most people wouldn't do, he would've remained lost as there was no announcement that he was missing.

My grandparents suffered from dementia and I would want this system in place if they were lost. Please support SB2305.

Todd Yukutake





March 26, 2024

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2305 Senate Draft 2 House Draft 2**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie Adamshick, and I am a partner in the Elder Law Practice of Rulon & Adamshick LLC. As an elder care attorney who currently represents a number of older individuals with Alzheimer's disease (or other forms of dementia), I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

We have a rapidly increasing number of elders in our community living with Alzheimer's disease. Many are left home alone by well-meaning family members who do not realize the risk to their loved one. Others live alone and can no longer appreciate their own impairment. When alone and outside of their home, these elders can become confused, disoriented and unable to find their way home. In this vulnerable state, they become lost, may miss essential medications, and may be victimized by criminals who will empty their wallets and take advantage of their confusion.

I have seen this in my practice when a client left home to look for her husband and wandered onto a freeway on-ramp where she fell, became injured, and had to be hospitalized. I have seen this in my personal life when my friend's mother with dementia wandered away from Bishop Museum after being left alone for five minutes and was found by HPD at 2:00 am near Honolulu Harbor "walking home".

The people of Hawaii value our kupuna and therefore need a Silver Alert program to help locate and safeguard these vulnerable individuals. With our culture and collective values, Hawaii should not remain one of the few states without this important emergency tool.

I ask that members of this committee remember their own kupuna and pass SB2305.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify --

LAURIE T.S. ADAMSHICK

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:48:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Travis Kikuchi      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Travis, and I am a Board of Directors Member for the Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. I was a caretaker for my grandmother with Alzheimer's and have experienced first hand the implications of her wandering away from the home. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed so this service can be made available to the many families who are experiencing what we had.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Travis

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:49:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kaela Wasnich       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaela Wasnich. I am writing in **SUPPORT of SB2305** to establish a silver alert program in Hawaii.

My mother suffered from Alzheimer's in the last years of her life. Watching the progression of the disease with my mom has attuned me to the strain that Alzheimer's and all forms of dementia put on families, caregivers, and our larger community. My heart breaks for families who lose a loved one because they wandered off never to be found, or found too late. The problem will only get worse as the number of people who suffer from Alzheimer's continues to increase. We need to do more to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. By helping families locate their loved ones before it's too late, this bill would help to do that.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaela Wasnich

Honolulu, HI

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:11:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Patricia Arde | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2  
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia P. Arde and **I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2305** which aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons 65 years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My beloved Dad, U.S. Army Retired SGM Francisco I. Pangelinan, went missing from Home Depot in Kapolei, Oahu, Hawaii at approximately 3:30 p.m. on May 15, 2023. Dad was 85 years old at the time of his disappearance and is now 86. Although not officially diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, Dad was starting to exhibit signs of memory loss, most often while driving and not remembering street names and having forgotten once familiar directions.

On the day that Dad went missing, he had shopped at Kapolei Costco in the morning, returned home for a couple of hours, and then returned to Kapolei for a stop at Home Depot to look for light bulbs. He told my Mom that he would be back shortly. A couple of hours later, my Mom called me at work to say that she was worried that Dad wasn’t home yet, as he hadn’t eaten much that day and had forgotten his cell phone. On that day, Dad knew who his family members were and knew our names. He could hold a normal conversation with anyone and most people would assume that he was perfectly fine. I called my husband at work and asked him to go find Dad, as we had placed an Apple tracker in his car and in his wallet in case he ever got lost. My husband tracked Dad to Home Depot and immediately drove to the store and found his car in the parking lot, but no sign of Dad anywhere in the store. For some reason, the tracker that we placed in Dad’s wallet with his permission on Mother’s Day, the day prior to his disappearance, was removed from his wallet and found in his locked car. We have no idea why Dad removed his wallet tracker and, unfortunately, we may never know. Dad had simply vanished and now, without the ability to track him, we had no way to find him.

It took days for Home Depot to review its surveillance footage of the store’s parking lot, and

even more days passed until our HPD detective was able to review the footage. So much valuable time was lost in the first few days that Dad went missing that we really had no chance of finding him. Home Depot surveillance footage showed Dad trying to locate his car in the store's parking lot. He had parked on the lumberyard side of the store, but had exited on the garden side and may have forgotten this fact. The footage shows Dad frantically looking for his car and, not being able to find it, crossing the street to Costco. Costco surveillance footage showed Dad walking through its parking lot and then crossing the street to the Honolulu Star Advertiser building. Thereafter, there is no more footage of Dad anywhere. All of the stores and businesses in the vicinity of Home Depot, Costco, Kapolei Commons and the Star Advertiser did not capture Dad on any of their cameras. HPD informed me that traffic cameras in the vicinity were also not working. We have been at a dead end since Day 1 and have had no clues whatsoever to help find Dad.

Perhaps not finding his car in the store parking lot triggered something in Dad's brain. We don't know what he was thinking and why he didn't stop to ask anyone for help. His credit cards have not been accessed. Did someone bad pick up Dad and try to rob him or worse? Did Dad suffer an injury once it turned dark and could be somewhere that we haven't looked? Did Dad try to walk home and get lost? Did Dad wander into a homeless encampment? Did Dad lose his memory and forget that he has a family? Did Dad lose his wallet and no longer know his identity? There are so many questions that we have about the afternoon that Dad went missing and they have so far gone unanswered.

Over the last 10 months, there have been some sightings of Dad and we have followed up on all of them, but nothing has panned out. We continue to search for Dad on our own, alerting and keeping as many people as possible posted of his current status via social media, as Hawaii still has no silver alert system in place. I firmly believe that if such an alert existed and had gone statewide as soon as Dad went missing, we might have had a chance to find him.

Our family is crushed by Dad's disappearance and it is difficult for us to get through each day not knowing what happened to him or where he might be. We want to believe that he is still out there somewhere and that we will find him and bring him home soon. We miss Dad every minute of every day and our hearts ache to see him again. We continue to pray that we will find Dad very soon.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. Six in 10 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I humbly implore that SB 2305 be passed so that other families will not have to experience what my family is currently going through. Losing a beloved senior family member in this way is nothing short of devastating.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the House Committee on Finance. My name is Carol Wakayama and I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 2305 S.D. 2 H.D. 2 (“Relating to Missing Persons”).

S.B. 2305 S.D. 2 H.D. 2 would establish a ‘Silver Alert Program’ to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled. The ‘Silver Alert Program’ is a system of community-wide communication when a someone is reported to law enforcement - as a missing person.

More than half of the States - in the U.S. - have established a ‘Silver Alert Program,’ modeled after the AMBER Alert Program. However, because Hawaii does not have such a program ... your support of S.B. 2305 S.D. 2 H.D. 2 is critically needed.

Humbly, I request your support of S.B. 2305 S.D. 2 H.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Carol Wakayama  
Honolulu, Hawaii



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 11:13:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Darrah Ruiz         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Darrah Ruiz, and I am a community member who is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

In 2021, my family experienced the heartache of losing my mom's sister to Alzheimer's Disease. Now, we are faced with the daily challenges of supporting my mom, who is also showing signs of this debilitating condition. The thought that I too may one day grapple with Alzheimer's weighs heavily on my mind. As a concerned member of our community, I witness far too many kupuna with cognitive decline go missing, leaving families in anguish and uncertainty.

The current system relies heavily on news and social media to initiate search efforts, but this is often inadequate and unreliable. It's imperative that our state takes proactive steps to protect this vulnerable segment of our population, mitigate tragic outcomes, and provide essential support to families and caregivers who shoulder immense responsibilities.

Establishing a framework specifically designed to locate lost kupuna, such as the proposed Silver Alert Program outlined in SB2305, is not just a matter of convenience; it's a matter of life and death. By endorsing this crucial legislation, you have the power to significantly minimize the likelihood of devastating outcomes and offer hope to families desperately seeking the safe return of their loved ones.

I implore you to take swift and decisive action in support of SB2305. Together, we can ensure that comprehensive measures are in place to locate and safeguard our cherished kupuna during emergencies, providing invaluable peace of mind to caregivers and families across our state.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's Disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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 false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Darrah Ruiz

Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 11:19:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelii Bandmann      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

As a caregiver to my mom who has dementia, i support this bill which seems common sense. Crime is on the rise against Kupuna so we need to be able to locate them with community support to find our loved ones ASAP. The cost of living makes it rough for us caregivers cause we can't afford not to work and care 24/7 for our loved ones because we also can't affor the long term care that is needed. To be honest, we should get tax credits for caring for loved ones.

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 11:34:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife Deborah are in strong support of SB 2305 SD2 HD2. This year in Hawai'i there will be 35,000 persons with Alzhiemers / Dementia. Persons with this condition can be disoriented anytime and anywhere. When lost they may behave erratically and become billigerent. In the past I have spent time searching for an elderly friend's missing husband who had wandered away from their home. It was a scary experience and we were all relieved when fortunately our friend's husband was located. I can only imagine the fear and concern my friend experienced while her husband was in the wind. Sadly, Hawai'i is one of just a few States that does not have a formalized Silver Alert. We request your support for SB 2305 SD2 HD12. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sinceely, Dan Gardner

Honolulu, HI 96821

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 11:47:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia Au          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

Mahalo for considering this important bill. I am in strong support of SB2305 SD2 HD2.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Au

Honolulu, 96824

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 12:05:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Poki'i Balaz. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2305. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Personally I have experienced this situation, the unrelenting worry and panic that initially hits you when you learn that your loved one is missing. At the time there was no alert system, no way to notify anyone. My bother and I began to search for our father and I'll never forget the terror on my mothers face. It was difficult already to understand how he left the facility unnoticed but when I asked what is the protocol, the response was, we don't know, we don't have one. That increased the feeling of haplessness and diminished hope. Fortunately for me, my loved one was found but in those hours of searching and waiting, you hold on to any ounce of hope and pray that your loved one will be all right. There was no one to call, no system to enact and that can't be the way anymore. Hawai'i needs to do all that they can.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Dr. Poki'I Balaz

'Aiea, H

## Senate bill 2305

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and  
Members of the Committee:

Dear Legestlators, Hi my name is Cree Castellanos of Kane'ohe. My Grandma Emily died of Alzheimer's and my Nana Nancy had vascular Dementia. I think it is so important that you pass our "Sliver Alert" Bill because, just think...,a Kupuna, or anyone who wanders, waiting to catch a bus back "Home", where home used to be, in the Mainland 5 years ago, suddenly they're lost, as they hop of the bus "Home" is not there. They feel forgotten. But at their real house their family is so worried and doesn't know who to turn to for help. If you pass this bill they can turn to everyone! And there won't be anymore long lost family members. So please help everyone feel safe and take that weight off of the familes who are still looking for that lost family member hopefully before they become long lost. Which won't happen if you pass Senate bill 2305. That is why it is so important to us.

# ***THANK YOU***

*Sincerely,*

*Cree Castellanos*



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 12:31:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anthony Makana Paris | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and fellow Honorable Representatives:

I **support** the SB2305, which establishes a Silver Alert Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

This program will allow our communities to better assist with caring for our loved ones and neighbors, including kupuna, during those unfortunate times in which they go missing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and Happy belated Prince Kuhio Day.

Me ke aloha,

Anthony Makana Paris

Kapolei, O'ahu, HI

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 1:10:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Justin George | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin George. My family and I are in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a Silver Alert Program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

As an advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, I have had the opportunity to listen and learn about the numerous instances of family caregivers in Hawaii having to suffer with having their loved ones wander away. While most have been found unharmed, the fact that some have been hurt and/or assaulted and still others have not been found makes me extremely concerned that we do not have a Silver Alert Program in place. With my father-in-law being recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and my own parents being in their 80s, I worry every day about their safety and well-being and it is imperative that we use all of our resources to take care of our kupuna, including establishing a Silver Alert Program.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Justin George

Resident of Kaimuki, Oahu, Hawaii

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 1:24:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify           |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Rick Tabor   | Individual   | Support            | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2**

**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:30 pm**

**Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Tabor and I am a retired mental health professional who turned retirement into a full time service above self lifestyle. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My Mother pssed on February 7, 2024 after a twenty year battle with Alzheimers. She struggled with Sundowners & wandered from time to time. Found once in very bad shape. I'm also a Certified Developmental Disabilities Specialist and a Mental Health Counselor/Supervisor. In

King County Washington state we had occasional missing 'very vulnerable' clients. A Silver Alert system would have helped all involved. Death is the worst case scenario. Time is the key. Without a Silver Alert System, the outcomes are risky. This was our experience.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rick Tabor

Honolulu, Hi.

3.27.2024

Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB [SB 2305](#), [SD2](#), [HD2](#) supporting a Silver Alert system for Hawaii. I work at an agency that supports Adults with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and the primary family caregiver of someone with Alzheimer's Disease. In both instances, I support individuals that need assistance with transportation, crossing the street and navigating the community. Many of the adults that I work with ID need assistance to report their full name, names of family members or what their personal information is.

For my family member that has Alzheimer's Disease she has willingly given up her ability to drive but not until she did get lost. Luckily, she encountered kind and friendly community members that assisted her to drive back to her home safely. Where she lived in Sun City West, Arizona, they did have the Silver Alert Program and it was used quite regularly. I was already in contact with the local police, we were preparing to issue an alert, when thankfully she arrived home. When my aunt was originally diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment, she was still able to complete many tasks and remain very independent. When her physician encouraged her to limit or stop driving, she was not ready to give up this privilege and refused to do so. There are probably many individuals in Hawaii that also struggle with the decision to voluntarily rescind their driving privileges and families that are struggling with the person with dementia to assist them to come to this decision.

I also have had a friend in Wisconsin who reported her husband to the Silver Alert program. There are many highways that a person can get on where you can travel the entire length of the state without having to stop. If a person forgets to get off at their exit they can drive for a long distance out of their way. With everyone having cell phones, my friend's husband was located because someone spotted the license plate to the police and the police were able to pull him over.

Having the Silver Alert program will assist community members and their families to keep people safe.

Mahalo for consideration of this bill.

Anne Hvizdak, BSDH, CDHC

[REDACTED]

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 2**

**RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 3:30pm

Conference Room 308 & Video Conference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donna Shimizu and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association living on the Big Island. *I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305.* The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My siblings and I witnessed my mother slowly drift away due to dementia. From an active, vibrant person she transformed into a mom who didn't recognize her children and could not function normally. I remember prior to her diagnosis, being with her crossing a street and she stopped dead center. I proceeded not realizing she was standing in the path of an on-coming huge truck. When I realized what was happening and yelled at her to proceed, she simply waved her arms around taunting the truck. Even with instructions to stay within her property boundaries, neighbors often told us she was seen walking blocks away from her home.

These are a few instances prior to her being diagnosed with alzheimers and housed at a care facility. We were lucky that after each alarming event, she was found safe. But what if?

I read with sadness about our missing kupuna and people in need of medication or needing immediate care. The heartache, chaos, and fear families must feel. How frightening for families and more so, the individual lost.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that *DOES NOT* have a formalized silver alert. I humbly request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Donna Shimizu [REDACTED]  
Hilo, Hawaii

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 3:24:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>    |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Jennifer Cox        | Individual          | Support                   | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Cox, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2305, the bill to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

For the past two years I have had the privilege of working as an independent contractor for Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care, a dementia care training company that promotes a more positive care culture by uplifting the dignity of people living with brain change and educating the rest of us to be able to respond to their needs with awareness, knowledge, and skill.

When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behavior when people approach them unaware of their potential cognitive state. Within the context of a Silver Alert, law enforcement and the general public can have an understanding of how best to identify and approach someone reported missing, to not only locate an individual, but to do so in a way that avoids confrontation and promotes connection.

I see the Silver Alert bill as an opportunity for all of us to take responsibility in supporting our fellow community members living with dementia, and to help alleviate some of the stigma and isolation that their families and friends too often feel as care partners. Establishing a Silver Alert demonstrates the State's commitment to formalize a program by which all of us can help reunite families with the least amount of stress and in the least amount of time possible.

Hawai'i is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed, so we may provide better support within our emergency systems for our families living with dementia – which, as we have heard from other testifiers, will only increase in the foreseeable future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jennifer Cox

Haiku, Maui



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 3:30:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Paul Aio            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I'm a resident of the Waianae Moku and a retired LEO that's in favor of SB2305. It would enhance Police response and Alerts to our lost and/or missing Kupunas. Besides increasing the Safety of our Community.

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 6:37:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allen Cardines, Jr. | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:16:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacelynn Eli       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Strong support.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**

**Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

**TIME: 3:30 p.m.**

**RE: SB 2305 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

**Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:**

**My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD2 HD2. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard vulnerable missing persons.**

**A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address and can be disoriented, even in familiar places; and 6-10 people with dementia will wander at some point. As the disease progresses individuals with dementia will forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting. They may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 36,000.**

**Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2503 SD2 HD2 be passed.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!**

**Linda Dorset  
Wailuku, Maui**

**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 10:58:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ian Ross            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

As a resident with a background in advocacy for well-being of our kūpuna and individuals with cognitive impairments, I wholeheartedly support SB2305 SD2 HD2. I submit the following testimony in my personal capacity.

This bill acknowledges the growing need for enhanced safety measures, mirroring the successful Silver Alert programs in thirty-seven states. Alzheimer's and related dementias impact over 29,000 of our elder residents, a number poised to increase. These individuals are at a high risk of wandering, leading to possible harm or worse. The Silver Alert system will serve as a critical lifeline, swiftly mobilizing community resources to ensure their safe return.

In our state the absence of such a program stands out as a missed opportunity as well as a failure to meet our responsibilities. Six in ten people with dementia may wander, and Hawai'i's beautiful but sometimes rugged terrain exacerbates the risks faced by wandering persons. The establishment of the Silver Alert program reflects our shared kuleana to protect our kūpuna and those with developmental disabilities from avoidable distress.

I urge this committee to consider the program's potential to alleviate some of the anguish of families during some of the most harrowing moments they might face. Please pass this bill and provide peace of mind and a safety net for our most vulnerable and their caregivers.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ian Ross



**SB-2305-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 2:54:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2024 3:30:00 PM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nicolas Los Banos | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nicolas K. Los Banos, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305**. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My family has first-hand knowledge of wandering when my grandmother started to leave her house on foot, usually making it to a nearby urgent care. However, her last wandering situation before she was transitioned to living in a skilled nursing facility involved the police department. A program such as the Silver Alert would strengthen community response to wandering events, especially in neighborhoods around Hawai‘i Island where public safety response can take a while.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to rise to over 35,000. 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.

Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. I request that SB2305 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nicolas K. Los Banos

Waiākea ‘Ahupua‘a, Hilo, Hawai‘i