

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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KE KIA'ĀINA



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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 1
RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:55 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports** Senate Bill 2305, Senate Draft 1.

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.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 01, 2024

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2305 SD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2305 SD1**, 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. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 1/1/2042. (SD1)

Silver Alerts, such as those activated under SB2305 SD1, 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.

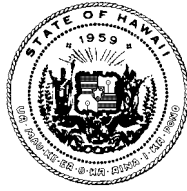
The success of Silver Alert programs in thirty-seven other states, as highlighted by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), underscores their effectiveness in aiding the recovery of at-risk individuals. By enacting SB2305 SD1, Hawaii has the opportunity to join the ranks of states 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 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

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

February 29, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2305 SD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.**

Hearing: March 1, 2024, 9:55 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Executive Office on Aging.

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. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 1/1/2042. (SD1)

The Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Health and Human Services 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.

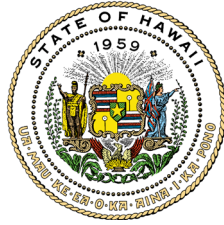
DHS acknowledges that establishing a Silver Alert system raises privacy concerns for the individual as well as the individual's family and may not be very effective if the system is not sufficiently resourced and coordinated. However, a [recent article](#) analyzing Silver Alert

February 29, 2024

Page 2

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.



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2305 SD1
RELATING TO DEMENTIA

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

Decision Making: Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 A.M., Conference Room 211

- 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 and defers to the Department of Law
- 3 Enforcement.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates \$250,000 for FY2024-2025. Declares the general fund
- 5 expenditure ceiling is exceeded.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law
- 7 Enforcement to alert the public and help locate missing elderly individuals or persons with
- 8 cognitive impairments or developmental disabilities. By 2025, the number of people living with
- 9 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 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.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 AM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2305, SD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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, SD1, 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 that reads "Kalani Werner".

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

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362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
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MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2305 SD1: RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: **Friday, 3/1/24; 9:50 AM; via Videoconference or CR 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 2305 SD1**, 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. Makes an appropriation. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is one of the few states in the US that does not have a formalized silver alert program. Kupuna in Hawai'i 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.





**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:55 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2305, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 1, 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 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.

This bill would take effect on January 1, 2042.

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 6th leading of death among US adults; and
- The 5th 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.**

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 1
Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:55 a.m.
Page 2

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.

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.



Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:55 am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Savina Makalena, and I am the CEO/Founder of Gimme A Break. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD1**. 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 Caregiving journey with my Mother was wrought with worry and frustration due to her progressing Dementia knowing that at any time she could at any time “wander off” or get lost and confused. Many of our Community of Caregivers share this sentiment.

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 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Savina Makalena
Honolulu, Hawaii

**The Senate
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024
9:55 a.m.**

To: Committee Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Re: SB 2305 SD 1, Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

I am Lila Mower, President of Kokua Council, one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups, with over 800 members and affiliates in Hawaii.

I also serve on the board of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, which has a local membership of over 20,000 AFL-CIO, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, HGEA, IAM, CAN, and other organizations' retirees.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 2305 SD 1** that seeks to establish a Silver Alert Program in Hawaii, much like thirty-seven other states and the District of Columbia have implemented to locate missing kupuna.

Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have programs formally called "Silver Alert," and an additional nine states have similar programs that go by other names and serve to help locate missing kupuna in their communities.¹ Ten of these states have missing person alert systems that apply to larger categories of endangered persons or apply to all missing persons, regardless of age or impairment.²

"By 2035, when the last baby boomer reaches retirement age, nearly 1 in 3 Hawaii residents will be over the age of 60. The more significant change, demographers say, will be a sharp increase in the number of residents over 80 — an age at which people are more likely to have one or more disabilities and need additional health care and assistance with the basics of everyday life."³

As our population ages, the prevalence of dementia will grow, giving reason to support this measure. "Approximately 6 out of 10 people with dementia wander at least once. Up to half of wandering older adults with dementia will be seriously injured or die if not detected within 24 hours."⁴ "Community-aided immediate search activities are often successful at finding missing individuals with dementia."⁵

For the reasons cited above, I request that SB 2305 SB 1 be passed. Mahalo!

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Alert

² <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/silver-alert>

³ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/06/hawaiis-population-is-aging-fast-the-impacts-will-be-significant/>

⁴ <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/silver-alert>

⁵ Analysis of Silver Alert Reporting System Activations for Missing Adults With Dementia in Texas, 2017 to 2022, Anthony D. McDonald, PhD, Valerie Danesh, PhD, RN, John M. Ray, PhD, and Alan B. Stevens, PhD



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.597.6550
www.papaolalokahi.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 AM, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

RE: SB 2305 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Elefante and Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

Papa Ola Lokahi testifies **in support** of SB 2305, which establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement. A [2021 Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism report](#) found that nearly one in five people in the State of Hawai'i is 65 or older. As this population continues to grow and age, the need to increase services and programs such as the proposed silver alert becomes increasingly important.

The safety of kūpuna, those with cognitive impairments, and the developmentally disabled are often left to their immediate family members. [Publication from the National Institutes of Health](#) regarding familial caregiving notes that “accumulating caregiving demands and the costs of long-term services and supports (LTSS) can overwhelm and undermine other dimensions of one's life.” A silver alert program can directly save lives and can also provide a stronger sense of safety and connectedness for those who care for their family or community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this critical legislation.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.

2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

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*Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association*

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:55 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211, and Videoconference

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2305 SENATE DRAFT 1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 1, and offer an amendment for your consideration.**

The Alzheimer's Association was established to assist those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives.

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged 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 \$250,000 in general funds for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Department of Law Enforcement to establish and operate 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 January 1, 2024.

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 such as autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy,

fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or epilepsy.

The Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests that the bill be amended to 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. **With this change, we ask you to pass Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 1.**

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



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



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 28, 2024

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Re: **Bill SB2305 SD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and healthcare industries. We are in SUPPORT of SB2305 SD1. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age and older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

Many of our members have been touched by this heart-breaking disease, myself included. In 2015, my family began the difficult journey to care for a loved one diagnosed with dementia. We had little understanding of the disease itself, the legal and financial burdens, the mental, physical and emotional toll on us as caregivers. We are lucky to have five siblings to care for one family member 24 hours a day.

We have seen reports on elderly folks wandering off and going missing - never to be found. The pain, grief and guilt family members must endure in an already stressful situation is unimaginable.

The elderly, cognitively impaired and developmentally disabled are among the most vulnerable in our community. We need this program. Hawaii is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a formalized silver alert. Please pass SB2305 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Joli Tokusato



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:55AM
Conference Room 211**

RE: SB2305 SD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports SB2305 SD1**, 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 further upgrade to our national standing in general 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.



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The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024
Conference Room 211, 9:55 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for S.B. 2305 SD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, 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 SD1 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.

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 7:18:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support.



HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Local996@hawaii.teamsters.com

1817 Hart Street
Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

Telephone: (808) 847-6633
Fax: (808) 842-4575

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, March 1, 2024, at 9:55 am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin Holu, and I am the President] of Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2305 SD1**. 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 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 SD1**, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

HTAWL 996

1817 Hart St.

Honolulu, Hi. 96819

Respectfully,

Kevin Holu

President

HTAWL 996



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:55 a. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2305 SD 1 Relating to Missing Persons

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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 1, 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 1, 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



February 29, 2024

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senators Aquino, DeCoite, Hashimoto, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Kim, Lee, Shimabukuro, Wakai, and Fevella, Committee Members

RE: SB 2305 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 safely.

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



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: February 29, 2024

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwak, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Support for SB2305 SD1 Relating to Missing Persons

Mtg: Friday, March 1, 2024 9:55 AM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of SB2305 SD1**, which would establish a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are 65 of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

By next year, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, is expected to rise to over 35,000, a more than 20% increase from 2020. Caregivers to those with Alzheimer's disease provide more than 91 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$1.9 billion.ⁱⁱ

A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address. Even in a familiar setting they can become disoriented. 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. These 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.

We support policies that help to ensure the safety of loved ones. Even when caregivers do everything possible, the unexpected happens, and through this bill a strong support network can be developed and thereby support health and well being. Our communities should work together to keep our ohanas safe.

We applaud the Legislature for helping to strengthen our communities. And thank this committee for this opportunity to submit supportive testimony for SB2305 SD1. We respectfully ask you to pass this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peggy Mierzwa'.

Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawaii Public Health Institute

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Data/Sites/1/media/HADSSP/booklet-state-plan-drd-3-23-web.rev102323.pdf>



March 1, 2024

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2305 SD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2305 SD1, 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 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
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 1, 2024

S.B. 2305, S.D. 1 — 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. 1 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. 1.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Perreira
Executive Director



LATE

February 29, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB 2305 HD1 - Relating to Missing Persons (Silver Alert Program)

Hrg: March 1, 2024, 09:55AM

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 HD1 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 HD1 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

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki 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 werent? 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 priveleged to join in the search for some of Oahus 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 mans 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. 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 isnt 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

LATE



March 1, 2024

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the Senate Committees on Ways and Means
In Support of

SB 2305 SD1 - RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committees:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Club **supports** SB 2305 SD1, 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. 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.

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 2:39:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pua auwae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 2:40:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 2:40:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 2:41:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paulette Werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 4:11:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Dan Gardner and I and my wife Deborah are strong supporters of SB 2305. In the past I have spent time searching for an elderly friend's husband who had wandered away from their home and was missing. It was a scary experience and we were were relieved when fortunately our friend's husband was located successfully. 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 continued support for SB 2305. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Dan Gardner

Honolulu, Hi

daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com

Testimony on House Bill No. SB2305 SD1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

March 1, 2024 at 9:55 am

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, my name is Peggy Kalalau], and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2305 SD1. The bill aims to establish a silver alert program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

My husband Joel was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's at the age of 56. Joel is a father to our three adult children and a grandfather to three beautiful grandchildren. When we got the news of his diagnosis, it was a complete shock to our whole ohana. Since then, he has slowly progressed through the different stages of the disease. He is now 64 years old. It has been a learning experience for us all and one that we do not wish upon any ohana.

I am sharing this because, we want to see the Silver Alert program put into place in our state of Hawai'i. As part of this disease, we have experienced Joel's wandering and getting lost one time too many. The first time he wandered from home, he walked more than two miles from home and could not tell me where he was. My ohana sprang into action, and my nephew found him walking on a street far from home. He was exhausted and disoriented. The second time, he called me from inside someone else's home telling me that he was home. I was at home, and I was telling him that he was not home. I told him to go outside and go onto the road. I then drove about a mile down the road and found him standing in the middle of the road. Again, exhausted, and disoriented. These two occurrences scared the life out of us. I knew then that he could not stay at home alone anymore.

I didn't know what to do. I have never experienced something like this before. If we didn't find him, we would have called the police but who knows how long it would take for us to locate him. What if he walked into someone's home again? What if they didn't understand that he has a medical condition? He looks young and at first glance you would think that he is a normally functioning adult. It is not until you talk to him, that you may realize there is a problem. Not many would take the time to talk if they are startled by a stranger in their home.

With the Silver Alert in place, we could send out a message to others so the chances of locating him would be much greater. Also, if someone encountered him, they would know what to do.

I beg you to please pass HB 1774 to help my ohana, my husband and all the others in our state who suffer from illnesses and diseases beyond their control.

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 would like to ask that SB2305 SD1 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Peggy Kalalau
Kea'au, Hawai'i
pegandjoel@gmail.com
808-895-3963

March 1, 2024

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee
Re: **SB2305 SD1 – RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS**
Testimony in Strong Support

I strongly support SB2305 SD1.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 9:45:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ohad Amidor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ohad Amidor, and I am an MSW student at UH Manoa. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD1**. 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 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 SD1, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor

Haiku,HI

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 7:21:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name Calvin Hara and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB2305 SD1**. 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 legislature 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 SD1, be passed.

Thank you.

Calvin Hara

Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 8:35:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2305, Senate Draft 1

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:55 am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, 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 SD1. 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 that was never accurately diagnosed for 10-15 years before he passed away in 2016. He lived with his care-giver wife who did her best to care for him on her own. In the early stages of his disease he would walk his neighborhood, sometimes coming home and saying that he saw Ben Roethlisberger, the (then) quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She knew this wasn’t true but humored him. Eventually he stopped going on those walks alone and I know he wouldn’t have been able to make his way back home if he had. Silver Alerts could be a very helpful tool for care givers if their loved one does walk away.

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 SD1, be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui, Hawaii

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2024

TIME: 9:55 AM

RE: SB 2305 SD1 RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2305 SD1. 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 be passed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui**

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 10:15:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

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. 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

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LATE

SB-2305-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 5:27:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2024 9:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph burr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, along with my family strongly support this bill and urge it's passage and implementation in a timely manner.

Our family lost a brother, a resident of Mililani and decorated military veteran to dementia recently.

Through the eyes of our family, had there been a "Silver Alert" type system in Hawaii, it is believed that my brother could have been found alive and returned to his family for caretaking. Unfortunately, our brother was found 50+ days after his "wandering" deceased and instead of being returned for care, his remains were returned for burial.

Our home state has a robust "Silver Alert" program for missing seniors that involves local, regional, and state law enforcement in addition to DOT display boards, social media and electronic media all coordinating and displaying information on the missing individual. With that process, there are many eyes in the community searching for the missing individual and the percentage of repatriation to the family or a skill care facility jumps exponentially as a result of the mass communication regarding the missing person.

During my families ordeal and my time on O'ahu searching for my brother, there was no noticable public notice of my brothers missing other than one local television station doing a brief interview regarding my brother, and we are grateful for that. The family distributed well over 500 fliers from the north shore to the south end of the island and not once did we see any "official" information relative to my brothers disappearance.

It is believed, with a system in place for missing seniors my brother and others like him can and will be found.

We implore the governing body to pass this bill, implement a robust system and help to bring these missing individuals home.

Respectfully submitted