

2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

Lori McCarney, Chair
Community Advocate

Dr. Pokii Balaz, Immediate
Past Chair
*Obama Foundation
Kokua Kalih Valley*

Tricia Medeiros, Past Chair
*Chief Operating Officer
The Plaza Assisted Living*

Gina Fujikami, MD
*The Queen's Medical
Center*

Travis Kikuchi
*Senior Vice President
Central Pacific Bank*

Kai Ohashi
*Financial Advisor
Edward Jones*

Michael Robinson
*Vice President
Hawaii Pacific Health*

Kimberly Soares
*Vice President
Atlas Insurance*

Gino Soquena
*Executive Director
Hawaii Building and
Construction Trade Council*

Gordon Takaki
*Past President
Hawaii Island Chamber of
Commerce*

Cary Tanaka
*Past President
Island Insurance
Companies*

Caroline Witherspoon
*President
Becker Communications*

LJ R. Duenas
*Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association*

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Friday, March 22, 2024; 1:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 137 / SENATE RESOLUTION 118 – REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP A NORWEGIAN-BASED PUBLIC FACILITY MODEL DESIGNATED TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF DEMENTIA PATIENTS.

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, 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 related dementias (ADRD) by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137 / SENATE RESOLUTION 118.

This resolution, as received by your Committee, would create a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of dementia patients. The task force is requested to consist of the following members: (1) the Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience, (2) the Director of Health, and (3) a representative from AARP Hawaii. The task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2025.

In September 2023, the [Hawaii 2035 State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias](#) was released. This is a culmination of work and feedback from various community partners and stakeholders led by the Hawaii Department of Health's Executive Office on Aging (EOA). It sets a framework to address the needs of caregivers and those living with ADRD. It also establishes working groups to carry out the activities contained therein. We believe these groups could be an avenue to discuss and assess the Norwegian-based public facility model referenced in this proposal.

We applaud the legislature for continuing to recognize the significance of ADRD in Hawaii, especially when it involves wandering.

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