STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - *KA ʻOIHANA OLAKINO*

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAIʻI
KE KIAʻĀINA O KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HOʻOKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

February 25, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **HB 1853-HD1 -- RELATING TO DEMENTIA**

HEARING: Friday, February 27, 2026 @ 10:00 am; Conference Room 308

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports the intent of HB 1853-HD1. Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are creating a growing public health and economic crisis in Hawaiʻi. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 31,200 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's, and 1 in 9 people over age 65 has the disease, with the number expected to double in the next 25 years. Our state likely spends well over $400 million a year on the disease, with Med-QUEST alone spending over $300 million. Affected families spend an enormous additional largely unmeasured amount of personal costs. Private costs for memory care can cost families not eligible for Medicaid over $200,000 a year.

HB1853-HD1 creates a community-centered model to ensure early detection, timely diagnosis, coordinated care planning, and access to treatment across Hawaiʻi, prioritizing services for neighbor islands and rural areas. The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) would have a coordinating responsibility for the program, but it would provide new county-based clinics staffed by experienced physicians, nurses, other clinicians and social workers. Once operational, the clinics can bill insurance for services to offset state costs. The program will also provide Dementia Care Specialists in each county to promote early diagnosis, caregiver support and coordination of services. It is a very innovative model.

SHPDA defers to EOA on the budgetary and implementation costs, but we believe an effective procurement contract will be the best way to implement this, given the existing EOA workload. Noting also an estimated $3+ million likely annual state appropriation needed to launch the program, SHPDA believes it will reduce state costs significantly over time by delaying onset and slowing progression of the disease, and by supporting families to better cope with care at home and in the community.

Mahalo for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to testify.

- -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

AARP Hawaiʻi

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The Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2026
Conference Room 308, 10:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: Support for H.B. 1853, HD1 Relating to Dementia

Aloha Chair Todd and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawaiʻi. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 135,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP Hawaiʻi supports House Bill 1853, HD1, which establishes the Hānai Program to provide coordinated support, guidance, and respite services for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as the family caregivers who care for them. This bill represents a critical step toward ensuring Hawaiʻi families receive the culturally grounded, community-based assistance they urgently need.

Hawaiʻi is facing a rapidly growing dementia crisis. Today, 31,200 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and 1 in 9 people over age 65 has the condition. With our kūpuna population expected to double in the next 25 years, the number of residents with Alzheimer's is projected to surpass 62,000 by 2050. Families are already struggling, and without meaningful infrastructure and caregiver support, the challenges ahead will quickly become overwhelming.

The financial impact on the state is equally alarming. In 2020, Medicaid spent $240 million on care for residents with Alzheimer's. The 2025 report shows that figure has risen to $309 million, an increase of $69 million in just five years. If no action is taken, Alzheimer's-specific Medicaid costs are projected to reach nearly $1 billion annually by 2050. This trajectory is unsustainable and underscores the need for upstream investments in caregiver support and coordinated services—precisely what the Hānai Program provides.

At the same time, Hawai‘i’s long-term care infrastructure is already operating at or above capacity, with limited availability of memory-care beds statewide. Families face staggering private-pay costs averaging over $15,000 per month—more than $180,000 per year—placing care far out of reach for most households. Neighbor islands and rural communities experience even greater disparities, with limited access to diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing support, leading to delayed care and higher long-term costs.

AARP frequently hears from caregivers who feel lost navigating the system, emotionally exhausted, and financially stretched. Many are forced to reduce work hours or leave the workforce entirely. The Hānai Program responds directly to these needs by creating a coordinated network of information, caregiver coaching, respite resources, and culturally relevant supports that empower families to keep their loved ones at home safely for as long as possible.

AARP Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to pass H.B. 1853, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM, Room 308 and Videoconference

RE: House Bill No. 1853 HD1 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the urgent need to expand access to memory care across Hawaiʻi, with a specific focus on neighbor islands and rural communities where access is limited. My name is Coby Chock, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association, and I write in strong support of HB1853 HD1, which establishes the HANAI (Hawaiʻi's Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention) Memory Network.

The Need ~ Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are creating a growing public health and economic crisis in Hawaiʻi. Today, 31,200 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's, and 1 in 9 people over age 65 has the disease. The population of adults 65 and older is expected to double in the next 25 years, which will push the number of individuals living with Alzheimer's in Hawaiʻi to more than 62,000 by 2050. The financial impact is already significant. Medicaid spent $240 million annually on Alzheimer's care in 2020, and the 2025 report shows that number has risen to $309 million per year, a $69 million increase in just five years. Without action, Alzheimer's-specific Medicaid costs in Hawaiʻi are projected to approach $1 billion per year by 2050. Families are facing extreme financial burdens, with memory care at long-term care facilities costing more than $15,000 per month, or about $180,000 per year. Hawaiʻi's long-term care infrastructure is at or above capacity, with limited availability of memory care beds. The need is most acute for neighbor islands and rural communities that face limited access to diagnosis and treatment, resulting in delayed care and higher costs for families and the state.

Framework ~ HB1853 creates a practical, community-centered model to ensure early detection, timely diagnosis, coordinated care planning, and access to treatment across Hawaiʻi, with priority for neighbor islands and rural areas. The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) will serve as the lead agency and will oversee implementation, coordination, and accountability.

The program has two integrated components. First, Dementia Care Specialists (DCS) will be positioned one per county, with an additional statewide program manager within EOA. These licensed social workers or nurses will provide outreach, brief cognitive assessments, navigation, caregiver support, coordination of services, and benefits counseling. DCS will conduct targeted outreach in neighbor islands and rural communities to close access gaps and connect families to services earlier.

Second, Community-Based Memory Clinics will be established on each neighbor island county and contracted with local health systems or Federally Qualified Health Centers. Clinics will be staffed by MD or DO or APRN, along with RN or MA and licensed social workers. These clinics will deliver diagnosis, staging, care plans, evidence-based interventions, and referrals, and will coordinate with neurology when warranted. Once established, clinics will bill for clinical services, which reduces long-term state appropriations while maintaining access.

Care will move through two complementary referral pathways. In the community pathway, Dementia Care Specialists (DCS) complete initial evaluations, including brief cognitive assessments and family interviews, to triage cases and refer individuals to relevant services and, when appropriate, to a Memory Clinic if there are signs of cognitive decline without a previous or recent diagnosis or care plan. In the primary care pathway, private practice primary care providers may identify symptoms and refer patients directly to Memory Clinics for further assessment. Once a patient is seen at a Memory Clinic, the specialized clinical team will provide an accurate diagnosis, develop a care plan, and offer treatment options. Depending on the individual's needs, the clinic may refer patients in later stages to geriatricians for further diagnosis, treatment, end-of-life planning, or holistic care. Patients with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage dementia may be returned to their primary care provider with a clear care plan for ongoing monitoring. Individuals who may be candidates for disease-modifying therapy can be referred to a cognitive neurologist for evaluation. Together, these pathways ensure early diagnosis, timely care planning, and access to appropriate treatment. This improves outcomes, reduces avoidable emergency visits and long-term care placements, supports caregivers, and helps keep families economically stable.

Budget and Fiscal Impact ~ The annual budget to launch the HANAI Memory Network statewide for the first three to five years is $3,000,000. This includes $700,000 per clinic for three clinics, $700,000 for DCS salaries, and $200,000 for community-based services and program development. After clinics are stood up and billing for services begins, the ongoing annual appropriation decreases to $1,000,000 to sustain DCS positions and program administration within EOA.

Start-up Scale and Fiscal Responsibility ~ This approach demonstrates reduced costs through earlier diagnosis, care planning, and coordinated treatment, supports caregivers remaining in the workforce, and reduces avoidable institutionalization. Medicaid costs associated with Alzheimer's have already increased by $69 million in five years, and they are projected to approach $1 billion annually by 2050 if we do nothing. Investing $3 million now, with a glide path down to $1 million once clinics bill for services, is a prudent strategy that bends the cost curve and expands access where it is most needed.

The HANAI Memory Network is an equitable, scalable, and accountable solution that aligns with Hawai'i's ADRD Strategic Plan and proven models in other states. By centering access for neighbor islands and rural communities, building capacity to deliver care closer to home, and establishing sustainable funding through billing once clinics are operating, HANAI provides a practical pathway to better outcomes and long-term savings. Prioritizing early detection, coordinated care planning, caregiver support, and timely treatment improves quality of life for kūpuna and families while slowing the growth of public costs. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1853 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have any questions, please contact Coby Chock at 808-451-3410 or ckchock@alz.org.

Coby Chock

Coby Chock
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD
Ka ʻOihana Hoʻokaʻaʻike no ka Poʻe Kīnānā

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February 27, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 1853 House Draft 1 – Relating to Dementia

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1853 House Draft 1 - Relating to Dementia. This bill establishes the Hanai Memory Network Program within the Executive Office on Aging to create a network of dementia care specialists and support systems to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000.

We respectfully defer to the Executive Office on Aging's request to amend the bill by extending the appropriation timeline to FY 2026–2028.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director

HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans
(AFL-CIO)

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1853, HD1

Relating to Alzheimer's Disease

Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference

House Committee on Finance
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports** H.B. 1853, HD1, which establishes within the Executive Office on Aging the Hawaii Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention (HANAI) program to support individuals in the State who are living with Alzheimer's Disease. The bill appropriates funds for one FTE memory network program manager and one FTE dementia care specialist and for equipment and support needs.

HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 16,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA's affiliates include retired members of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.

Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias are a major cost driver in the U.S. and Hawaii. Although age does not cause dementia, it is a significant risk factor. As Hawaii's population continues to live longer, the number of individuals requiring care related to dementia is expected to exponentially increase and severely tax the Medicaid program, which pays for most of the institutional care provided to those living with Alzheimer's and dementia. Even if no government resources are utilized, costs for long-term care will inevitably be borne by family caregivers, who very likely will suffer financial challenges in their own senior years.

While there is no cure for Alzheimer's or dementia, treatments are now available to slow progression for those diagnosed early. Research is also advancing to develop new and better treatment protocols by organizations like the Alzheimer's Association. Early diagnosis is possible if health care professionals include cognitive assessments when treating their patients.

H.B. 1853, HD1 will establish the HANAI (Hawaii Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention) program to fund one memory network program manager and one dementia care specialist plus associated costs. Clearly, **two full-time employees** to manage and provide services for the entire state are **insufficient to make a difference** in addressing the **dementia crisis in Hawaii**. However, **it is a start** to help gather needed data to support expansion of the program when the State's fiscal position improves. More importantly, it **represents the Legislature's recognition of a significant health issue affecting so many Hawaii residents**.

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports H.B. 1853, HD1** and urges passage of this measure to establish the HANAI program and appropriate funds.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAIʻI
KE KIAʻĀINA O KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HOʻOKELE

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA ʻOIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
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Testimony COMMENTING on HB1853 HD1
RELATING TO DEMENTIA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

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

Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2026,10:00 A.M. Conference Room: 308

EOA Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health (DOH), appreciates the intent of HB1853 and offers comments. EOA requests that this bill does not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

Fiscal Implications: This measure would need funding to establish and implement the HANAI Memory Network program within EOA including 1 FTE program manager; 1 FTE dementia care specialist; and undefined funds for equipment, supplies, and other operational costs to support the clinic partnerships

Purpose: The bill requires EOA to establish and operate the HANAI Memory Network, including hiring a program manager and dementia care specialist, creating clinics or clinical partnerships, coordinating services, providing training, collecting data, and reporting annually.

This represents a large-scale initiative requiring substantial internal and external infrastructure and sustained funding.

EOA already leads the Hawaiʻi Dementia Initiative (HDI), which implements the State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and convenes a coalition of 150 stakeholders. In SFY 2025, HDI delivered community and professional dementia education statewide, reaching 6,306 community members and 2,618 professionals, generating 56 million media impressions, and launching the Healthy Brain Tracker with 30+ indicators. EOA also maintains hawaiidementia.org and fulfills Act 286 (2025) data-collection requirements.

Despite these accomplishments, EOA is currently at capacity with significant staff vacancies. Launching a new statewide program of the scale envisioned in HB1853 would be challenging and potentially unsustainable under current economic conditions and resource limitations.

Concerns: Despite these accomplishments, EOA is operating at capacity with significant staff vacancies. With limited internal infrastructure and resources, a new statewide program like HANAI would be difficult to implement. Given the State's economic uncertainty and EOA's limited capacity, launching this initiative now would be challenging and unsustainable.

Recommendation: EOA supports the intent of this measure but recommends revisiting the proposal when the State and EOA are in a stronger position to implement it effectively. We would welcome efforts to expand dementia care specialists statewide to complement the work of our existing ADRD coordinator.

EOA remains fully committed to improving the health and well-being of Hawaiʻi's aging population, but we must prioritize sustainability and statutory mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:01:36 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are in support.

HPCA
HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1853, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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** House Bill No. 1853, House Draft 1, RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

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 appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2026-2027 and establish an unspecified number of positions within the Executive Office of Aging to implement the Hanai Memory Network Program to integrate community-based specialists, clinical partnerships, and public education to improve early detection, care coordination, and long-term support for individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 3000.

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.**

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, the HPCA believes that this bill will ensure that earlier diagnosis, equitable access to care across all counties, and better coordination among service providers will reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations. By shifting from crisis-driven care to proactive planning, Hawaii can improve outcomes for kupuna and caregivers while reducing Medicaid costs and alleviating pressure on the State's long-term care system.

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@hawaiipca.net.

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:02:00 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kira Miyatake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Kira Miyatake, and I live in Kailua, Hawaii. Alzheimer’s has affected me deeply through my family. My aunty’s father lived with the disease, and it was heartbreaking to watch him become increasingly lost and confused, even though he couldn’t help it. Our family supported him as much as we could until he eventually passed. Experiencing this showed me how devastating Alzheimer’s is, not only for those diagnosed but also for the families who care for them. Supporting this bill would help us better understand the disease and move closer to effective treatment and, ultimately, an end to its impact on families like mine. I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1, which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi’s kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Kira Miyatake

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:00:34 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lisa knutson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

Aloha, my name is Lisa Knutson and I live on Kauai. I am a caregiver of my spouse who has been diagnosed with early onset of dementia and he is only 64 years old. He is unable drive and function independently with regards to appointments, making his own food, financial decision, including shopping, and doing house and yard work. His retirement and social security doesn't even cover the cost of his living expense, yet, we can't afford any assistance due to not qualifying for financial resources/aide. It's challenging to work FT to get our medical and pay our bills, and having to come home to prepare his lunch and give meds during my lunch break. His social life is limited as he is unable to carry on a conversation due to saying his inability to stay focus on what is being said. So, its sad that people treat him differently because they don't understand what he's going through. Caregiving is physically, mentally and emotionally challenging. Getting the diagnosis, treatment and resources is almost nil on the neighbor island. Thus, I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. With the medical improvements made to diagnos dementia, we now need the resources to treat those with the disease as it's been significantly increasing, affecting more families.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I strongly recommend supporting this legislation to ensure that all of Hawai‘i’s families no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need. I'm sure all of you know someone affected by this disease

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Lisa Knutson

Testimony on HB1853 HD1
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI. 96813

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Liane Briggs, and I live in Kāneʻohe. My parents were spared the effects of Alzheimer's, however, I know many caregivers through a caregiver support group, and I am familiar with how dementia care affects local families, physically, emotionally, and financially. **I am in strong support of HB1853** which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. Kupuna and their families are aware of the difficulty of finding senior care, throughout the State and especially in rural areas and on neighbor islands, due to limited numbers of medical specialists, senior care facilities and workers. The HANAI Memory Network will help people get diagnosed earlier, connecting families to resources, and bringing memory care closer to home.

The very name of this bill, "The Hanai Memory Network", indicates to me the role that the larger community shares in the care of our elders. Funding is needed to implement a care network statewide.

I respectfully urge you to **support this legislation for The HANAI Memory Network** to ensure that Hawaiʻi kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Liane Briggs

Raelene Tenno Rae10No@gmail.com

Testimony on the following: HB1853

Relating to: Dementia
February 27, 2026
10:00am

SUPPORT

HB1853, Establishes the Hanai Memory Network Program within the Executive Office on Aging to create a network of dementia care specialists and support systems to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Appropriates funds.

I unexpectedly became the caregivers for my Uncle and Aunty, prior to that was my dad and he was in a care home.

In my younger days, during family gatherings, Aunty and her siblings would jokingly make comments about her not being able to remember past experiences and she would comment on not remembering certain current things.

It was always laughed off as getting older.

After Uncle passed in 2007 at 87 years, I would check on her daily. It was seeing her being a bit confused in the kitchen and then observing (but stopping her) her placing the rice pot into the microwave, the decision was made to move into her home. We already had our own home in Kaneohe and although the distance from town to Kaneohe is 15 miles, it was exhausting. We would be arriving at our own home after 7pm and then taking care of our own household needs and pets added stress to the exhaustion.

At that time, we had no clue about Dementia or Alzheimer's, as a family we would laugh it off as being the "senior moment".

After moving in, I noticed little notes or reminder notes, but didn't really think much about it.
It was during one of her doctor visits that she was diagnosed with Dementia and prescribed medication.

HB1853 is so important to create the network of dementia care specialists and support systems.
Although it might not be included in this bill, please consider including our First Responders into training and support systems.

I state this as while living with Aunty, she would accuse me of stealing her panties or bras and even her "x" amount of black pants. I don't even know how many black pants I own in my closet.
During a doctor visit, she accused me of stealing her wedding ring. With that the doctor informed me he needed to report it or I needed to self-report it to HPD and provide hm with a copy of the police report.
We did as instructed. **I am so grateful that the responding officer was empathetic to the situation only because his own mother was going thru the same with her mother, his grandmother.** We had to wait outside while he was in the house for over an hour, the ring was found in a dresser drawer.
The next day, she informed me the responding police officer stole her ring. It was in her room in the little red ring box.
We obtained a copy of the police report and faxed it to the doctor.

Although needed now, we asked the committee to strongly consider the Executive Office on Aging's(EOA) request to extend the appropriating timeline to FY2026-2028.
Extending the timeline will allow the EOA to effectively and carefully plan for the launch of this program.

We want this to succeed and not fail and as stated in AARP's testimony, the Dementia crisis is growing and Hawaii's population is more older than younger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1853.

Raelene Tenno
Provided caregiving for 3 family members.

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:02:11 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LJ Duenas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on HB1853 HD1

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is LJ Duenas, and I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi's kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

LJ Duenas

96822

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:28:29 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda S Dimaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brends and I live in Pearl City. For over 10 years, my parents ran an adult foster care home where we lived and care for adults that can no longer take care of themselves. Majority of our clients had Alzheimers and from a young age I watched how hard it was for our clients' loved ones to part with them and entrsut them to our care. Many of the families had told us that they wished they saw the signs earlier so they can care for their loved ones a bit longer and be connected with resources before they turn to adult foster homes. Many reported that their loved ones didn't have early cognitive assessments for Alzheimers.

I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi's kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:50:31 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Seabaugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Brian Seabaugh, and I live in Kailua. I have lost a grandmother and am currently a caregiver with two aunties and a father living with Alzheimer's. I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi's kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Brian Seabaugh

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:21:01 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Mower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

Testimony on HB1853 HD1
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Peter Black, and I live in Ninole on the Big Island. I am a retired professor of Anthropology, 83 years old, and I have Alzheimer’s disease. I strongly support HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state, with an emphasis on providing services for people living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Most of my career was at George Mason University, in Virginia. In 2005 I accepted an offer of early retirement from the University because it had become more and more difficult to teach at a level I could accept. As a student, I was unfortunate enough to have taken courses from people who were clearly past their peak, and I did not want to subject my students to the same thing. My wife Barbara and I moved to Hawaii in 2011. In 2015, she suggested that since I seemed to be worried that I might be declining mentally, I should probably just see a neurologist. I was 73 years old at that time.

I shall never forget my shock when the neurologist told me that I had Alzheimer’s. However, that relatively early diagnosis turned out to be a blessing since it led us to plan for the future, and for me, access to one of the new Alzheimer’s drugs.

For many other kūpuna on the Big Island and the other neighbor islands, access to such care is very difficult because it is not available locally. We are fortunate in this respect.

An affordable and accessible pathway to early detection and diagnosis needs to be available on all the neighbor islands along with locally available support throughout the course of this disease for patients and their caregivers. The HANAI Memory Network is a solution to this problem.

Hawai‘i is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 of us are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. From my own experience, I am confident that early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi's kūpuna, no matter where we live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support we need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Peter Black

Testimony on HB1853 HD1
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Barbara Black and I live in Ninole on the Big Island. I strongly support HB1853 HD1 which would provide a network of memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

I am the caregiver for my spouse, Peter Black, who lives with Alzheimer's. Peter was diagnosed about 10 years ago. We were extremely lucky in that early diagnosis, and it was possible only because we had the ability to go to Oahu and to San Francisco. There were no memory care facilities on this island and, as we all know, PCPs are overwhelmed on the neighbor islands. Moreover, many are reluctant to care for those with dementia of any kind.

Peter's relatively early diagnosis was a gift to us as we contemplated our future. We were able to plan how we would manage this disease as it inevitably progressed.

I have had the opportunity during this time to learn (online and in person) more about the disease and caregiving. This has been incredibly helpful to me as we have moved forward through the progression of this disease. Caregiving for a spouse with Alzheimer's is complex and difficult; the ability to adjust and learn as early as possible has helped me immensely.

Early detection also provides the possibility of early access to treatments to slow progression of the disease. Treatments are becoming more accessible and effective every day.

Access to early detection, treatment, and coordinated support should be easily available and accessible to all those dealing with this disease throughout the state.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all Hawai‘i’s kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Barbara Black

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:50:24 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordyn Nakaguma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on HB1853 HD1

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Jordyn Nakaguma, and I live in Mililani, Hawaii. My grandparents on both sides of my family had a form of dementia/Alzheimer's, which directly impacted my family for many years. We faced many challenges that we did not even know came with caregiving. We were fortunate enough for my grandparents to receive some cognitive assessments and other support leading up to their diagnosis, but I understand that not everyone has the same opportunities for support. I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1, which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each of the neighbor islands. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawai‘i’s kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Jordyn Nakaguma

To: Chair Todd
Vice Chair Takenouchi
Members of the Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1853, HD1 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA**
Friday, February 27, 2026
Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Steven Tam, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of HB 1853, HD1**, which establishes the Hanai Memory Network Program within the Executive Office on Aging. I support this bill in memory of my father and three uncles who died from Alzheimer's disease.

Hawaiʻi is in the midst of a dementia crisis. More than 31,000 residents are living with Alzheimer's disease today, supported by over 62,000 unpaid family caregivers. **This is not a future challenge on the horizon — it is a crisis unfolding right now for families and neighbors across our state. These numbers will rise sharply as our population ages.**

Despite this growing need, access to early diagnosis, coordinated care, and long-term support remains limited—especially on the neighbor islands and in rural communities. These gaps are already leading to delayed diagnosis, preventable crises, and overwhelming caregiver stress. **Like many families, we struggled to navigate a system that simply isn't keeping up with what families need today. Families are experiencing the consequences now, which is why action cannot wait for a later session.**

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This model strengthens early detection, shortens the time to diagnosis, connects families to resources, and brings memory care closer to home. HB 1853, HD1 ensures that families receive timely guidance, culturally responsive support, and proactive care planning. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 1853, HD1. This legislation will ensure that Hawaiʻi's families are no longer left to navigate dementia alone and represents a critical step toward a more coordinated, compassionate, and sustainable dementia care system for our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steven Tam

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/25/2026 4:08:33 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1853 HB RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

CONSIDER IN FUTURE BILLS TO INCLUDE "IMPLANT" TRACKING DEVICE FOR MISSING PERSON WITH DEMENTIA ILLNESS..

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:09:32 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jo Hittner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on HB1853 HD1

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Jo Hittner, and I live in Hilo. I come from a family with a history of dementia on both sides. I am 80 years old and am concerned about the possibility of a diagnosis of dementia as I age. I live on a neighbor island in Hawaii that has limited access for diagnosis and treatment. I know that early detection and treatment significantly slows the progression of Alzheimer's disease and would like to have the opportunity, if necessary, to early detection and treatment, not only for me but for all Hawaii residents who are susceptible to the disease. I am in strong support of HB1853 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawai‘i’s kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Jo Hittner

HB-1853-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:25:03 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalie Char	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Rosalie Char, and I live in Kaneohe Although I do not have a close, personal connection to the disease, I have met many in communities across Hawaiʻi who have. It's is especially difficult to hear stories from those that live in rural areas like those from the neighbor islands. They struggle accessing care and often time need to fly to Oahu, does. It seem fair. I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi's kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Rosalie

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1853
RELATING TO DEMENTIA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Tani Salazar and I'm a Social Worker, born and raised in Hawaiʻi, testifying as an individual in support of the intent of HB 1853. Three of my grandparents lived with dementia, and my ʻohana has firsthand experience with how challenging it can be for families to navigate the healthcare system and community-based services to obtain appropriate support. These experiences underscore the importance of accessible, coordinated dementia care. Thank you for your leadership in hearing this measure, which would establish a HĀNAI Memory Network Program to assist families in navigating dementia care and to provide dementia education to the broader community. Expanding access to early detection and education is critical to improving outcomes for individuals living with dementia and caregivers.

I recognize that this is a challenging time for our state to establish new programs, particularly given fiscal and staffing constraints and ongoing changes in the federal landscape. However, as our population ages, dementia will continue to impact more individuals and families across Hawaiʻi. For this reason, it is vital that dementia-related programs remain a priority—whether through this measure or through future efforts when capacity allows. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tani K. Salazar

Tani Salazar, LSW, MSW

Testimony on HB1853 HD1
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Calvin Hara, and I live in Kaimuki. I am in support of HB1853. During my thirty-year career in long term care, I have seen many people with Alzheimer’s disease along with their family caregivers. It is a difficult disease to have and to be a caregiver, especially as the disease progresses.

I have been a caregiver myself for loved ones and experienced first-hand on providing necessary care. As we know, there is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease.

HB1853 would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas. Hawaii’s people need a network to improve their access to care as well the ability to have a plan of care for their life with Alzheimer’s.

Please support HB1853 so Hawai’i’s kupuna can find better comfort in days ahead. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Calvin Hara

Testimony on HB1853 HD1
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Friday, February 27, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

My name is Mansa Devaki, a student at UC Berkeley studying Neuroscience, and I am a resident of Kula. During my time volunteering with Alzheimer's patients, I’ve seen firsthand how devastating the disease is, not just for those diagnosed but for their families as well. I worked with patients on cognitive exercises designed to help slow their decline, but the reality is that once symptoms become noticeable, many families are already deep in the struggle of caregiving. A family friend of mine on Maui was fortunate to be diagnosed with dementia fairly early, allowing them to pursue treatments and lifestyle changes that may extend their independence. But for many, especially those diagnosed late, the options are far more limited.

I am in strong support of HB1853 HD1 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas. Hawaiʻi is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and this number is expected to double by 2050 as our population ages. Many families, especially on neighbor islands and in rural communities, struggle to access timely diagnosis, care planning, or memory care services. This leads to delayed or missing treatment windows, avoidable emergencies, and significant emotional and financial strain.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. This will help people get diagnosed earlier, connect families to resources, and bring memory care closer to home. Early detection and coordinated support can make a meaningful difference in quality of life for those living with dementia and for the caregivers who support them every day.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to ensure that all of Hawaiʻi’s kūpuna, no matter where they live, have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Mansa Devaki