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 4, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

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

RE: **SB 2589 -- RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

HEARING: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 01:01 pm; Conference Room 225

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 2589, which establishes the Hawaii Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention (HANAI) program within the Executive Office on Aging to support individuals with Alzheimer's disease statewide.

In Hawai'i, approximately 31,000 to 35,000 older adults aged 65 and older are currently living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. In addition, about 16.8 % of Hawaii residents aged 45 and older report subjective cognitive decline, higher than national averages. Around 62,000 family caregivers provide 111 million hours of unpaid care annually, valued at 2.8 billion. We also know that fragmented services create barriers, with higher ER visits (2.7x) and inpatient stays (4.3x) underscoring navigation gaps.

Development of the HANAI program would provide needed support and tools to assist both the patients and their caregivers. We defer to the EOA for the specifics, details, and costs. We know that when patients with Alzheimer's disease receive timely and appropriate services their quality of life improves. We urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for hearing SB 2589.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

- -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA

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
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96813-2831

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

Testimony COMMENTING on SB2589
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 1:01 P.M. Conference Room: 225

EOA Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health (DOH), appreciates the intent behind SB2589 to support individuals with Alzheimer's disease and offers comments. EOA requests that this program and appropriation not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

Fiscal Implications: This measure appropriates $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 to the Executive Office of Aging to establish the Hawaiʻi Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention (HANAI) program, including (1) the establishment of four state dementia care specialist positions (4.0 FTE) and (2) administrative and other related expenses.

Purpose: This measure establishes the HANAI program within the Executive Office on Aging to support individuals with Alzheimer's disease statewide. Through the Hawaiʻi Dementia Initiative (HDI) EOA has demonstrated its commitment to improving the lives of individuals with

Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, as well as their families. HDI leads implementation of the Hawai‘i 2035: State Strategic Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), focusing on early detection, caregiver support, brain health and risk reduction, public awareness, clinical and community linkages, and data collection. EOA continues to work diligently toward the goals of the ADRD State Plan. However, we are currently operating at capacity. EOA’s operational constraints, with multiple staff vacancies, significantly restrict our ability to take on new large-scale initiatives. The HANAI program, as envisioned, would require substantial infrastructure and sustained funding to be implemented effectively. Launching such an initiative without adequate resources would be challenging and unsustainable.

Considering the state’s current economic uncertainty and EOA’s internal limitations, we have concerns about the feasibility of establishing a new program at this time. While we appreciate the intent of this measure, we believe it would be more appropriate to revisit the proposal when the State and EOA are in a stronger position.

If this measure moves forward, we have the following technical amendments:

Page 2, section b (b) <u>As part of the program, the executive office on aging may contract with health care providers to expand access to Alzheimer's disease treatment and diagnosis services pursuant to chapter 103F [and Chapter 103D]</u>.

Recommendations: EOA remains fully committed to the health and well-being of our aging population. However, we must prioritize the sustainability of our existing programs and statutory mandates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2589
Submitted on: 1/30/2026 6:51:17 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

More and more people will develop Alzheimer's Disease and this Bill provides a good framework to begin to develop an array of community services to provide support.

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:59:14 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Higa	Testifying for Hawaii Parkinson Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Glen Higa, and I live in Honolulu. As president of the Hawaii Parkinson Association, I know the complications of dementia among our Parkinson community. I am in strong support of SB2589 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 8,000 Hawaiʻi residents are living with Parkinson’s disease, and this number is expected to double by 200 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,

Glen Higa

President, Hawaii Parkinson Association

AARP Hawaiʻi

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

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Conference Room 225, 1:01 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: Support for S.B. 2589 Relating to Alzheimer's Disease

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

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 Senate Bill 2589, 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, Hawaiʻi'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 Hawaiʻi respectfully urges the Committee to pass S.B. 2589. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Testimony on SB2589

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee:

My name is Chris Lutz, and I live in Honolulu Hawaii.

My wife, Maria, was diagnosed with Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease in February 2024 at age 56. My wife has a genetic form of the illness called APOE-4 Homozygous. People, like my wife, with both copies of the APOE-4 gene variant are 15 times more likely to develop Alzheimer's Disease, often at a much younger age.

Over the subsequent two years since diagnosis, I have learned first-hand how challenging and heartbreaking this disease is for my wife, my children, and for myself. During this time, I have taken on the role as caregiver in addition to spouse.

My wife and I wanted to make a difference for others with Alzheimer's disease, so I joined the Leadership Board for the Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii in 2025. Our hope is that Maria's experience can help others in the State of Hawaii.

Despite the challenges of this terrible illness, my wife and I are much more fortunate than others with symptoms of dementia, especially people who live on the Neighbor Islands. My wife has able to get diagnosed fairly quickly, and with her physicians, we have been able to develop a treatment plan, including medications, therapy, and other resources.

Other people with similar symptoms to my wife, especially in rural areas, are likely to experience long delays for care, and often they will not receive a diagnosis and treatment plan until the symptoms are very advanced if at all. Data shows that dementia is diagnosed only about half the amount of time on the Neighbor Islands as it is diagnosed on Oahu.

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,

Chris Lutz

SB-2589
Submitted on: 1/30/2026 6:45:47 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, 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 SB2589 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

SB-2589
Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:09:37 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Alto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Alto, and I live in Kihei.

Both of my grandmothers passed away due to Alzheimer’s and Dementia. I know that this is likely my destiny and I do not have children. I will need to have the help of my medical team to help diagnose and treat/plan for me when that time comes. This bill is so important to my generation and the future generations to come.

One of my grandmothers was diagnosed properly and my aunt was her caregiver up until the final year of her life. When my grandmother fell and broke her hip, my aunt could no longer care for her and had to place her in a nursing home. My aunt took care of her for 10 years dealing with the dementia and all of the things that came with that. It took a physical, emotional and financial toll on the family mostly my aunt as you can imagine.

My other grandmother hid her dementia from the family for years. It wasn’t until she fell and a neighbor found her a couple of days later, luckily alive, when my mother realized how bad it was when she was in the hospital. Patients with dementia learn how to lie, and hide the symptoms in order to keep their independence which then puts others in harms way, as well as themselves including driving and cooking. She argued with everyone about everything including seeing doctors, medication, where she was going to live. This was unfortunate because had there been resources for care planning to help, the impact to the family and herself could have been less of an impact. It was a difficult time for all of us. By the time she was diagnosed it was late, she had to be placed in a home and passed 5 months later.

I am in strong support of SB2589 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawai‘i is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawai‘i 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,

Jennifer Alto

SB-2589
Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:39:04 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2589. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I reside at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

To:	Chair San Buenaventura
Vice Chair McKelvey
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Re:	**SB 2589 – RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Steven Tam, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of SB2589**, 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. SB2589 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 **SB2589**. 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

HI Senate Bill 2589

I fully support Hawaii Senate Bill 2589 which establishes the HANAi program to help people who need help figuring out options and approaches to managing Alzheimer’s disease for oneself or for patient care. The number of people and families afflicted with Alzheimer’s is growing at an enormous rate. There is a lot of good information that needs to get to the families and caregivers for people with Alzheimer’s. Having lost my mother to this dreadful disease, I am strongly behind this bill.

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:54:28 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, 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 Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi residents who are susceptible to the disease. I am in strong support of SB2589 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,

Jo Hittner

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:38:03 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this proposal.

Testimony on SB2589
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, 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 SB2589** which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas.

Hawaiʻi has been facing a growing dementia crisis for years. 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. If earlier diagnosis can occur, earlier treatment and lifestyle supports become available, helping families to care in the home.

The HANAI Memory Network offers a statewide solution by creating Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island. We 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.

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

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:13:18 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Perone	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony on SB2589

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. My name is Girard “Jerry” Perone, and I live in Kakaʻako. I am an Alzheimer’s Association Ambassador in Hawaiʻi, and I’m here in strong support of SB2589.

Alzheimer’s is not a statistic in my life. It is the slowest kind of loss — watching someone you love disappear inch by inch while their body is still sitting right in front of you.

I have already lost my mother-in-law, Gladys, to Alzheimer’s dementia. I also lost a close friend, Rich, to Parkinson’s dementia. And right now I’m watching another family endure it as my friend John cares for his wife, Myrna.

In every one of those stories, the beginning looked “small.” A forgotten word. A missed appointment. A strange detour. A question repeated. But that early stage is where families either get help early — or fall into months of confusion, delay, and crisis.

Gladys was strong, independent, and the heart of our family. Then the slips began quietly. She started calling us for directions to our home — a place she had visited countless times. She began eating the same meal every night because she could no longer remember how to cook anything else. She got lost just a mile from her house.

And then came a moment my family will carry forever: her husband — her partner of 60 years — walked into the room, and she looked at him like he was a stranger. Not angry. Not confused. Just blank. A lifetime suddenly unrecognized. We lost her long before she died.

During those early months we needed one thing above all: a clear, compassionate, step-by-step path. What does this symptom mean? What assessments should we ask for? Who can evaluate her? How do we plan for safety, medications, driving, and the home? What resources exist right now — not “eventually” — and who will help us connect to them? We did not have that. We pieced it together with late nights, fear, and second-guessing.

That’s why SB2589 is so important. 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.

SB2589 offers a practical, statewide solution: the HANAI Memory Network. It creates Dementia Care Specialists in every county and builds a coordinated navigation system so families can get to early, accurate diagnosis and to the right supports sooner. It brings memory care closer to home by strengthening statewide capacity and enabling partnerships that expand access — rather than forcing each family to reinvent the wheel.

To be clear: HANAI is not just a program name. It is the difference between “We think something is wrong” and “Here is what to do next.” It is the difference between a caregiver breaking down alone at midnight and a caregiver who has a number to call — a trained guide who knows the system, the services, and the next step.

For neighbor island families, that difference is even more urgent. A family on Maui, Hawaiʻi Island, Kauaʻi, Molokaʻi, or Lānaʻi may have to fly for specialty care, take time off work, coordinate child care, and pay out of pocket just to get an evaluation. Delay isn’t only painful here; it is logistical and financial. And every month of delay is a month of progression.

Early detection and coordinated support can change the trajectory. It can reduce crisis-driven ER visits, help families plan for safety before something happens, connect people to specialists and treatments sooner, and keep kūpuna safer at home longer with dignity.

I respectfully urge you to PASS SB2589 and keep the program and funding intact. Please ensure the Dementia Care Specialists are empowered to serve neighbor islands equitably, coordinate with primary care, and connect families to culturally responsive resources. Measure success by outcomes families can feel: fewer months of waiting, fewer avoidable emergencies, fewer dangerous wandering incidents, and more time living safely — together.

Alzheimer’s steals time — first from the person, then from the whole family. SB2589 gives Hawaiʻi families something precious back: a guide, a plan, and a fighting chance before the worst day arrives.

Mahalo for your time and for your leadership.

Girard “Jerry” Perone

Kaka‘ako, Honolulu

Alzheimer’s Association Ambassador (Hawai‘i)

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:08:28 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Fujikami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on SB2589

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Dr.Gina Fujikami, and I live in Honolulu, HI. Alzheimer's has affected my family, and as a Geriatrician, I mainly see kupuna with cognitive issues and their caregivers.

I am in strong support of SB2589 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,

Gina Fujikami, MD

Testimony on SB2589
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, 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 SB2589 which would provide memory care across the state with an emphasis on providing access for individuals living on neighbor islands and rural areas. Hawai'i is facing a growing dementia crisis. Today, more than 31,000 Hawai'i 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,
Mansa Devaki

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:03:10 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!!

Testimony on SB2589
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Calvin Hara, and I live in Kaimuki. I am in support of SB2589. During my thirty year career in long term care, I have seen many people with Alzheimer's disease along with their family caregivers. I have been a caregiver myself for loved ones. As we know, Alzheimer's disease is a difficult disease and there is no cure.

SB2589 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 SB 2589 so Hawai'i's kupuna can find better comfort in days aheadl.

Mahalo,

Calvin Hara

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM, Room 225 and Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill No. 2589 – RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, 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 SB2589, which establishes the HANAI (Hawaiʻi's Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention) Memory Network, offering amendments for your consideration.

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 ~ SB2589 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.

We have attached suggested amendments that better outline the HANAI Memory Network in Section 2 for clarity. These amendments more clearly define the Network's structure, purpose, and key components, including community-based memory clinics, dementia care specialists, and coordination through the Executive Office on Aging, helping ensure a shared understanding of how the program is intended to operate.

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 SB2589.

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

SECTION 2. Chapter 349, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"**Part . Hanai memory network program**

§349- Definitions. As used in this part:

"Dementia care specialist" means a trained social worker or allied health professional who provides community-based dementia screening, care planning, and coordination services.

"Memory clinic" means a clinical partnership between the State and a health care provider or health system that provides diagnostic and treatment services for individuals with cognitive impairment, staffed by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse and support staff.

§349- Hanai memory network program; established. (a) There is established within the executive office on aging the Hanai memory network program.

(b) The Hanai memory network program shall:

(1) Establish dementia care specialists;

(2) Establish one or more memory clinics;

(3) Ensure coordination between dementia care specialists, memory clinics, and programmatic services;

(4) Develop and maintain a statewide referral network and care options directory for dementia care;

(5) Provide training and technical assistance to participating providers in the program;

(6) Operate a public-facing website to serve as a central hub for education, referrals, and provider listings for dementia care; and

(7) Collect and securely maintain data relevant to the program.

(c) The executive office on aging may enter into contracts or memoranda of agreement with health care providers, health systems, and community-based organizations for the purpose of implementing the Hanai memory network program, including but not limited to the operation of memory clinics, training of dementia care specialists, and provision of community-based services.

(d) The executive office on aging shall:

(1) Administer and oversee the Hanai memory network program;

(2) Collaborate with area agencies on aging, health care providers, and community health centers;

(3) Submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, which shall include:

(A) The number of individuals screened and diagnosed;

(B) The number of care plans created;

(C) Provider and caregiver satisfaction data; and

(D) Any proposed legislation."

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:47:14 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on SB2589

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Lori McCarney of Honolulu. I am in strong support of SB2589 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.

Testimony on SB2589
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Barbara Black and I live in Ninole on the Big Island. I strongly support of SB2589 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

Testimony on SB2589
RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, 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 SB2589 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 their home island. And not to be forgotten is the need for support throughout the course of this disease—for the patient and his or her caregivers. The HANAI Memory Network is a solution to this problem.

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,
Peter Black

LATE

HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o Hawaii Education Associati
joannekealoha@gmail.com

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 2589

Relating to Alzheimer's Disease

Hearing: Wednesday, February 4, 2026; 1:01 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225
and Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Chair San Buenaventura, Senator McKelvey, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports** S.B. 2589, 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 have Alzheimer's Disease. The bill appropriates funds for the four FTE dementia care specialist positions, one in each county.

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 with Alzheimer's and dementia. Even if no government resources are utilized, the costs will inevitably be borne by family caregivers, who most 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.

S.B. 2589 will establish the HANAI (Hawaii Assistance for the Navigation of Alzheimer's Intervention) program to fund one dementia care specialist in every county for early detection of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. This program will be a welcome resource for health professionals on the neighbor islands where the shortage of health care professionals is alarming, and the few on each neighbor island are not trained or experienced in diagnosing and treating dementia patients. One in each county is clearly not enough but a good start.

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports S.B. 2589 and urges passage of this measure to establish the HANAI program to fund one dementia care specialist in each county.**

Thank you for considering our testimony.

LATE

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:20:23 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Vericella	Testifying for Alzheimer's Caregiving & The Caregivers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on SB2589

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Wednesday, February 4, 1:01 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tony Vericella, and I live primarily in Waimea on the Big Island. My wife, Dana Mehau-Vericella, was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's in 2018. She's now in the late stages and has been unable to do any activity of daily life for the last five years. Our family provides her complete care in our home here.

In September, 2023, I launched an approved tax-exempt 501 (c)(3), called Alzheimer’s Caregiving & the Caregivers.

My goal has been simple – to pass on the healing, the strength, and the power that comes from understanding and sharing experiences. initiative, and has but one mission – *to prepare, equip, and provide evolving support to “families” caregiving for loved ones diagnosed with the progressive and debilitating effects of Alzheimer’s/Dementia*.

I am in strong support of SB2589 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,

Tony Vericella

Alzheimer's Caregiving & The Caregivers

www.alzcaregiving.org

LATE

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:25:04 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Jordyn Nakaguma, and I live in Mililani, Hawaii. Both grandparents on my Father's side, and my Grandfather on my Mother's side of had some form of dementia/Alzheimer's which has impacted my family and those closest to us. I am in strong support of SB2589 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,

Jordyn Nakaguma

LATE

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:29:09 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this measure.

LATE

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:26:54 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Brian Seabaugh, and I live in Kailua. I had a grandmother pass away from dementia and am currenty a caregiver for my father and two aunties living with Alzheimers. I am in strong support of SB2589 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

LATE

SB-2589
Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:05:28 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/4/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Kilty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2589

Relating to the HANAI Memory Network

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

My name is Stacy Kilty, and I live in Kailua, Hawaiʻi. I am writing in strong support of **SB2589**, which would establish the **HANAI Memory Network** to expand access to memory care statewide, with particular emphasis on neighbor islands and rural communities.

This issue is deeply personal to me. Both of my parents were diagnosed with dementia-related illnesses in their late 80s—my father with Lewy body dementia and my mother with dementia—and both passed away within two years of their diagnoses. The period following diagnosis was intense and overwhelming. The pace of decline was rapid, and the need to navigate specialists, testing, treatment options, and care planning placed significant emotional strain on our family.

Even with the ability to advocate and access care, it was clear how challenging it is to obtain timely, accurate diagnoses and coordinated memory care. Memory-related illnesses are complex and often misdiagnosed or diagnosed too late. Early diagnosis matters—not only for treatment options, but for planning, dignity, and quality of life. For many families in Hawaiʻi, especially those on neighbor islands or in rural communities, these challenges are far greater due to limited access to cognitive assessments, neurologists, and geriatric specialists.

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. Families across the state are struggling to access timely diagnosis, care coordination, and memory care services. These gaps often lead to missed treatment windows, avoidable emergency situations, and significant emotional and financial burden on caregivers.

The **HANAI Memory Network** offers a thoughtful, statewide solution. By establishing Dementia Care Specialists in every county and Memory Clinics on each neighbor island, this legislation brings care closer to home, supports earlier and more accurate diagnosis, and connects families to coordinated resources and treatment. This approach recognizes both the medical realities of dementia and the practical needs of families and caregivers.

As our population ages, the need for a coordinated memory care system will only increase. SB2589 is a proactive investment in equity, public health, and mālama for our kūpuna and for the families who care for them.

I respectfully urge you to support SB2589 and help ensure that all families in Hawaiʻi—regardless of where they live—have access to timely memory care, early diagnosis, and the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Stacy