
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a 2015 nationwide
2 survey by Justice in Aging concluded that ten states have laws
3 requiring dementia training for law enforcement personnel, and
4 one state requires dementia training for emergency medical
5 technicians.

6 The legislature notes that six in ten people having
7 dementia will wander and a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's
8 disease may not remember his or her name or address and can
9 become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals
10 having dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear,
11 or hostility, all of which can escalate to more aggressive
12 behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals having
13 dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be
14 incidents of false police reports and victimization, indecent
15 exposure, and shoplifting. People having Alzheimer's disease
16 may appear uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they
17 have difficulty communicating and understanding what is



1 happening. Furthermore, first responders may not know how to
2 assist people in these situations, leading to more confusion.

3 The legislature believes that providing education related
4 to dementia and training in de-escalation tactics for
5 firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other first
6 responders can often effectively address these types of
7 situations and ensure the safety of the first responders and the
8 individuals having dementia.

9 The purpose of this Act is to require the development and
10 provision of dementia training to first responders.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be
13 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14 "§321- First responders; dementia training. (a) The
15 employers of first responders shall develop and provide dementia
16 training for first responders. The training required under this
17 section shall include:

18 (1) Recognizing the key signs of Alzheimer's disease and
19 related types of dementia;

20 (2) Strategies for assessing cognition;



1 (3) Best practices for interacting with persons having
2 Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia; and

3 (4) Strategies to best identify and intervene in
4 situations where persons having Alzheimer's disease
5 and related types of dementia may be at particular
6 risk of abuse or neglect.

7 (b) The training required under this section shall be
8 offered at no cost to the applicable first responders and shall
9 be funded by private contributions from relevant non-profit
10 organizations.

11 (c) The executive office on aging may set the standards
12 and frequency for the dementia training and may coordinate as
13 necessary with all public and private entities and agencies
14 responsible for services provided by first responders to provide
15 the training required under this section, including entering
16 into agreements or memoranda of agreement with nonprofit
17 organizations to provide funding pursuant to subsection (b).

18 (d) The employers of first responders may utilize existing
19 educational and training resources available in the public and
20 private sectors when developing the training required under this
21 section.



1 (e) As used in this section, "first responders" includes
2 firefighters, emergency medical technicians, mobile intensive
3 care technicians, emergency management workers, police officers,
4 and state law enforcement officers."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



Report Title:

Dementia Training; Alzheimer's Disease; Dementia; First Responders; Executive Office on Aging

Description:

Requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. Permits the executive office on aging to set standards, frequency, and coordination of dementia training. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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