



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

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HAWAII EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING RELEASES NEW STATE PLAN ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE & RELATED DEMENTIAS

HONOLULU – The Hawaii Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is releasing the state's first comprehensive plan on dementia: *Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias* (ADRD). The plan was developed with feedback and perspectives gathered from sectors of the government, as well as non-profit, business, healthcare, education and legal communities – including consumers and families affected by dementia. The plan is available at www.hawaiiadrc.org/site/439/resources.aspx.

“Convening the task force and work groups to create the first state plan to address Alzheimer's disease and dementia in Hawaii was an intensive and inclusive process involving more than two years of focus on this growing public health issue,” said Wes Lum, EOA director. “With the completion of the plan, EOA will continue conducting public forums and town hall meetings statewide for public feedback.”

“The new plan was created to provide a coordinated response from various sectors in the community to address issues related to Alzheimer's disease and to improve the quality of life for all families affected by the disease or a related dementia,” said Christine Payne, executive director and CEO, Alzheimer's Association – Aloha Chapter. “This is an instrumental time for the release of the plan as I believe that the desire from the community to address this disease has never been stronger.”

In 2014, it is estimated that Hawaii has 25,000 people over age 65 diagnosed with dementia. It is anticipated that this number will grow to 35,000 by 2025, an increase of 40 percent. (Alzheimer's Association 2014 Facts and Figures)

One of the key goals of the Hawaii state plan is to provide more support for Hawaii's dementia caregivers. About 70 percent of dementia care is provided in the home environment by unpaid caregivers. In 2013, there were 64,000 documented self-identified dementia family caregivers in Hawaii, delivering 73 million hours of unpaid care, at a total value of \$910 million. (Alzheimer's Association 2014 Facts and Figures)

"Hawaii's plan links the state's goals and recommendations for dementia capability to those in the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, demonstrating the partnership between state and federal government responses to Alzheimer's," said Randi Chapman, Esq., director of State Affairs, Alzheimer's Association, Washington, DC.

The Hawaii Plan aligns with the goals and strategies of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. Both plans focus on five areas of action: prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025; enhance care quality and efficiency; expand supports for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families; enhance public awareness and engagement; and improve data to track progress.

Dementia is now considered a global public health crisis. According to the Alzheimer's Association, an estimated 5.2 million Americans have ADRD. This includes approximately 200,000 younger than age 65, the fastest growing population. These figures do not include those who are undiagnosed. Studies estimate that approximately two-thirds of the people who meet the diagnostic criteria for ADRD have not received a diagnosis. (Boustani, Peterson, Hanson, Harris & Lohr, *Screening for dementia in primary care: a summary of the evidence for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force*. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2003) Almost half of people over 85 have some form of memory loss. By 2050, this number may triple. (Alzheimer's Association 2014 Facts and Figures)

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, killing more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. Every 67 seconds someone in the United States develops the disease. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. It's the

most expensive condition in the nation, costing \$214 billion per year. (Alzheimer's Association 2014 Facts and Figures)

For information and services on Alzheimer's disease and dementia, contact the Alzheimer's Association – Aloha Chapter on Oahu at 591-2771 or toll-free at 1-800-272-3900.

In April 2014, EOA received a \$50,000 Opportunity Grant from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors to Implement Selected Action Items from *The Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013-2018*. EOA was one of six applicants awarded. Partners in the Hawaii grant include the Alzheimer's Association – Aloha Chapter; Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council of the State Health Planning and Development Agency; Department of Geriatrics at John A. Burns School of Medicine; Hawaii Pacific Neuroscience; and Hawaii Public Health Institute. This grant will help lay groundwork for state plan implementation in the areas of: training for healthcare professionals on early detection and accurate diagnosis; public awareness; and creating an evaluation process and action steps for the state plan.

The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is the designated lead for the coordination of a statewide system of aging and family caregiver support services in the State of Hawaii, as authorized by [federal](#) and [state](#) laws. EOA through the four county Area Agencies on Aging provides information on how to access aging and caregiver support services, so older adults at risk of nursing home placement may live in their own home for as long as possible. To learn about EOA's efforts to develop comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older adults and family caregivers in the State of Hawaii, go to <http://health.hawaii.gov/eoa/>.

For assistance for seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers, contact the **Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center** at 643-ADRC (643-2372) or visit www.hawaiiadrc.org.

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