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**Committee Chair:** Dr. David Lane

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**Attachments:**

**Title Page**

**Abstract**

**Signed Approvals Page**

NATIVE HAWAIIAN ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS AND THEIR EXPERIENCE OF  
ANTICIPATORY GRIEF

by

CONNIE DELANE MITCHELL

A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty  
in the Counselor Education and  
Supervision Program of the College of  
Professional Advancement  
at Mercer University  
in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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2024

## ABSTRACT

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NATIVE HAWAIIAN ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS AND THEIR EXPERIENCE OF  
ANTICIPATORY GRIEF

Under the direction of W. DAVID LANE, Ph.D.

Alzheimer's is a progressive brain disease and the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. Informal caregivers are providing the greatest margin of care. Due to the trajectory of the disease these caregivers are overwhelmed and experience anticipatory grief. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing minority group in America. The AANHPI are comprised of 50 subgroups with 100 different languages. Alzheimer's and dementia research among these subgroups is limited due to a lack of disaggregated data. According to the literature, Native Hawaiian elders experience historical trauma and multiple health disparities which includes a shorter life expectancy and early onset Alzheimer's. Therefore, this qualitative study examined Native Hawaiian Alzheimer's caregivers and their experience of anticipatory grief.

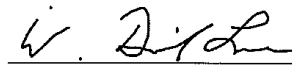
*Keywords:* Alzheimer's, anticipatory grief, caregivers, grief, Native Hawaiians

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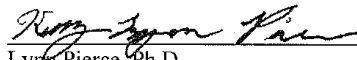
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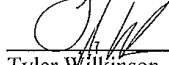
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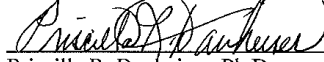
  
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