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Title: Increased Elderly Utilization of Psychiatric Emergency Resources as a Reflection of the Growing Mental Health Crisis Facing Our Aging Population

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

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Increased Elderly Utilization of Psychiatric Emergency Resources as a Reflection of the Growing Mental Health Crisis Facing Our Aging Population

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TO THE EDITOR,

The elderly population continues to soar in the United States, with those older than 65 expected to double from 2010 to 2050. Many are predicting an imminent mental health crisis for our seniors, as available resources lag further behind the demand. One contributing factor is the ever-growing number of individuals with dementia-related behavioral symptoms. In Hawaii, a top retirement destination known for longevity of life, we have experienced greater use by elderly patients of the psychiatric emergency department (ED) at the largest general hospital in the state. As evidence of this trend, we present age-

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