

Attn:

Chair of Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs

Chair of Committee Human Services

Re: S.B. No. 673

I am a member of the Kaimuki Neighborhood board and am appearing on my own behalf to provide testimony as to my support of S.B. No. 673 which seeks to have counties review their planning and zoning ordinances to determine whether there are appropriate steps that can be made to address certain of the negative neighborhood impacts of residential care facilities.

I am in support of adult residential care homes which allow persons to reside in a more comfortable and home like atmosphere and the same is protected by the Fair Housing Act and State statute. There have been certain negative impacts on the surrounding community with as a result of the facilities. Most recently residents have expressed concerns regarding additional parking needs for both visitors and deliveries. Additional concerns have been voiced as to sound issues, depending on the type of resident and the varying delivery schedules, may also impact the community to a greater degree than typical residential homes.

My understanding of the process for construction and licensure in Hawaii of an ARCH does not make any accommodation or consideration of the use of the property with respect to smaller care facilities (Type I facilities). The building permit is processed without any identification of the purpose for the use of the property. The County then only addresses building code requirements pertinent to the structure. Once construction is completed the applicant then requests licensure from the Department of Health.

Providing the Counties with authority to address issues such as parking and noise attenuation for ARCH facilities permits the better integration of the care homes into the surrounding community and would lessen the impact on the community. The proposed bill is a step toward permitting the more complete and complimentary integration of care homes into existing communities.

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