

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 15, 20
Room 329
STRONG SUPPORT
HB 1654

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Liwaili Ka'awa and I am in Strong Support of HB 1654.

My niece and I are interested in opening a Group living facility. We are qualified both by virtue and experience to open such facility. The Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have funding for these types of endeavors. Both my niece and I spent some time in jail and so we know the dilemma in finding a home after incarceration. We want to provide these services and we feel the community has a need for these homes.

We looked for a facility in Waipahu but because there are so many Care Homes the 1000 foot limit between facilities becomes a hindrance. It is next to impossible to find a place. But I found that there are those in possession of Conditional Use Permit issued by the Department of Health and the Department of Health will allow to discontinue it but the City who issue the Conditional Permit do not have a policy to cancel it if the holder of the agree will not agree to it.

This measure will allow the City to cancel their CUP permit if they are no longer using it for its permitted use.

I see that it is easier to get a conditional use permit if the neighborhood has approved it even it means going through the process again..

Thank you and I ask that you pass this measure forward.

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Tuesday, February 15, 2011

10:00 a.m.

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Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Florinda McCloud and I am in Strong Support of HB 1654.

Group living facilities are licensed by the Department of Health and are authorized to operate in the neighborhood through the conditional use permit process . The intent of the Conditional Use Permit is to provide essential services to members of our community and fulfill a vital community needs. However, there is a limit to the amount of [permits issued. Therefore, if one has a conditional use permit but is not using it, it prevents anyone else from providing the much needed services within that area. This is a major problem. Without the services that the group living facilities offers, individuals, families, and the community suffer. Therefore, I am in Strong Support of HB 1654 which will let the conditional use permits expire if the group living facility ceases operation or fails to start operations within a year, whichever is sooner, thus allowing for operational group living facilities to establish and provide vital services in the previously serviced area.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Florinda McCloud

Committee on Health
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LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee my name is Demetria Waduge. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1654.

This measure would amend the Land Use Ordinance to put a termination date on conditional use permits issued by a county agency that are not being used for their intended purpose. As the ordinance currently stands, there is no provision for the City or the State to terminate a Conditional Use Permit even though it is not being used. By amending the ordinance to include an expiration date on permits that are not currently being used, this would allow others to obtain a permit that would be put to good use.

These conditional use permits allow for group living facilities with eight or fewer residents and are licensed by the state. Many of these group living facilities are vital half-way homes or Clean and sober Homes.

For those needing the assistance to re-integrate into the community, these can be vital tools for rehabilitating these individuals to become productive member of society. If there are those willing to house these individuals, they should not be stopped by a permit that is not currently in use.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Demetria C. Waduge