

**LATE**



**SB 166**  
**RELATING TO THE CLEAN AND SOBER HOME**  
**AND HALFWAY HOUSE TASK FORCE**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 1, 2011

9:20 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB 166. This bill establishes a task force, within the Department of Health, to regulate clean and sober homes and halfway houses.

OHA recognizes the value of halfway homes in giving pa‘ahao a path towards reintegration within the community. The proposed task force would create an opportunity to eliminate challenges faced by halfway homes. Some of these challenges include zoning limitations relating to the number of unrelated people who can live in a single home and locating these facilities in neighborhoods where residents express concerns.

OHA’s recent report, “The Disparate Treatment of Native Hawaiians in the Criminal Justice System,” further confirms that halfway homes are needed to reduce recidivism and expensive incarceration when more efficient remedies are available.

As written the proposed task force would consist of 13 members. The committee might find it of value to create a slightly smaller task force by cutting some of the appointed positions from two to one. The committee might also consider leaving a seat open for a representative of an administrator of the halfway housing field, to be appointed by the governor, rather than mandating a member from Oxford Housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this legislation.