

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

L A T E

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

SB 2536, Relating to Clean and Sober Homes and Halfway Houses

Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329. State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Melissa John. I am a Community Based Case Manager for adults with mental illness in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii and a student pursuing a Masters degree in Social Work. I am testifying in favor of SB 2536, Relating to Clean and Sober Homes and Halfway Houses. I am in favor of establishing a temporary clean and sober home and half way house task force of this nature to promote accountability and legal compliance.

Supportive, clean and sober housing is vital to the recovery and reintegration of many people overcoming substance abuse and addiction. I believe these homes are a literal lifesaver for many people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders. Whether transitioning from a highly structured treatment facility, a hospital, incarceration, or homelessness, clean and sober homes can offer crucial support and a safe and healthy living environment that promotes recovery. Ensuring appropriate regulation, oversight and accountability promotes safety and effectiveness. I believe that by hearing, addressing and responding to the needs and concerns of the community we will reduce fear and stigma and improve the quality and effectiveness of the collaborative services provided.

I feel this taskforce could provide valuable information and promote high standards as we evaluate existing clean and sober housing and develop new programs and a plan to end homelessness in Hawaii. This bill appears compatible with Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness's plan to end homelessness. I am in support of SB 2536, Relating to Clean and Sober Homes and Halfway Houses. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa John
Citizen, student and service provider
melissajohn74@yahoo.com

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 3:42 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kimokeiii@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2536 on 3/20/2012 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT/HUS 3/20/2012 10:00:00 AM SB2536

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Keli
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimokelii@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Aloha Kakou House of Representative Legislators,

ATTN: Committee on Health - Chair, Rep R. Yamane & Vice Chair, Rep D. Morikawa and committee members; Committee on Human Services - Chair, Rep J. Mizuno & Vice Chair, Jo Jordan and committee members;

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF SB 2536!

This bill's purpose and intent is greatly needed in view of the fact that many Clean & Sober Facilities/Houses are popping up all over the the State of Hawaii with no real oversight and monitoring being conducted by the Federal, State, City and Local governments and agencies.

Hopefully, this interim Task Force can expeditiously research, investigate, gather and collect the necessary data and information whereby aggregating all this feedback and reports to culminate into several different position statements as to assisting with the creation of clear and concrete type of policies and regulations governing this new and innovative industry.

Please note that throughout the Nation and even here in Hawaii, the Prison System and Correctional Facilities have all been under intense pressure to release a lot of "low level" type of risk prisoners from their prisons into the general public and communities; therefore, these Clean & Sober Houses/Facilities will be the front-line type of entities being used to release these prisoners to.

I am an advocate and supporter of having Clean & Sober Houses/Facilities in our communities; however, I really would like to see some consistent and fair policies created to protect the safety of the general public, but to also allow for these potential clients of these Clean & Sober Houses/Facilities a fair treatment toward getting themselves well, healthy and productive as they all begin their journey with returning home to their families and respective communities.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Kimo Keli (Waianae Coast Community Leader)

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Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Kelii
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimokelii@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

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Mahalo Nui Loa, Kimo Kelii (Waianae Coast Community Leader)