



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

H.C.R. 200, Requesting the Director of Health to Reconvene the Clean and Sober Homes and Halfway Houses Task Force

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 27, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports adoption of this measure with
2 recommended amendments.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** No funds are appropriated, however, costs will be incurred for Task Force
4 members' necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their official
5 duties.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The DOH supports reconvening of the Clean and Sober Homes and
7 Halfway Houses Task Force to resume deliberations on the multi-faceted topic of housing as stable
8 housing is a critical component in the continuum of mental health and substance abuse treatment and
9 recovery.

10 Clean and sober homes and halfway houses provide a means for persons to return to the
11 community through support in a less structured home-like environment. These homes provide a
12 community living or group living residence for substance abuse and mental health clients who are
13 transitioning from the treatment setting to life in the community. For those who are under the
14 supervision of a criminal justice agency (e.g., offenders under the supervision of the Department of

1 Public Safety, probationers under the supervision of the Judiciary’s Adult Client Services Branch and
2 parolees under the supervision of the Hawaii Paroling Authority), such housing provides a stable living
3 environment throughout the transition.

4 We concur with the “resolved” clause (on page 2, lines 14-18) which requests that, to the extent
5 practical, representatives from the same entities that participated in the original task force (as listed on
6 page 2, line 20 through page 3, line 3) be included to ensure continuity. We appreciate the support of
7 agency representatives who have participated thus far and we look forward to their continued support in
8 addressing a community concern that crosses agencies’ public health and public safety functions, as well
9 as State and County jurisdictions.

10 As indicated by the seven items listed in the “resolved” clause on page 3, there are a number of
11 major issues that remain to be addressed in this collaborative effort. Balancing the concerns of
12 community members and the concerns of those requiring the support of group homes will improve the
13 availability of quality group homes. This benefits clients of Department of Health behavioral health
14 programs as well as clients enrolled in Department of Human Services programs that assist the
15 homeless. Offenders under the supervision of the Department of Public Safety, parolees under the
16 supervision of the Hawaii Paroling Authority and probationers under the supervision of the Judiciary
17 who are transitioning to independent, in-community living will also be afforded support in an alcohol
18 and drug free environment.

19 If the Committee takes further action on this measure, we respectfully recommend the following
20 amendments:

- 21 ▪ Deletion of the word “interim” on page 1, line 20; and
- 22 ▪ Changing “community home” to read “community support home” on page 3, line 17.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

24



HCR200 / HR161 Clean and Sober Homes Task Force : *Reconvene task force.*

- COMMITTEE ON HEALTH: Representative Belatti, Chair; Representative Morikawa, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, Mar. 27, 2013; 10:00 a.m. Room 329

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HCR200 with Recommendations .

Good Morning Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and Distinguished Committee Member. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than twenty non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

Recommendations:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to ensure continuity, the Director of Health is requested, to the extent practical, to include in the Clean and Sober Homes and Halfway Houses Task Force representatives from the same entities that participated in the original task force such as:

(10) Homeless and Substance Abuse Treatment advocates;

Supporting Information:

HSAC was a member of the previous task force, has contributing information and has been the primary advocate for the task force for several years.

While there are viable solutions, there are complexities that must be addressed. Legal issues such as ADA will mandate changes in law, yet we must develop accountability structures to ensure independent housing for the reintegration of recovering people will follow good neighbor rules.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions .