

LATE TESTIMONY

March 18, 2016 at 10:00 am

HB 1870

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

My name is Clifford Mendoza and I am writing in support of HB 1870, RELATING TO TAXATION. I was diagnosed with my disability years ago while I was homeless and houseless.

In 2012 I made a decision to make a change in my life. I completed treatment and through my case management I found a place to live. My next goal was to get a job so I began attending the Clubhouse in 2013. It was very hard for me to find employment due to having a felony on my record from 25 years ago. I was able to find a position, which lasted for around 3 months due to budget cuts in their company. Since that job I was unable to find employment. And, within the last six month I stopped looking due to health problems that I have to deal with currently; however, there are many of my peers who are currently looking for jobs.

While a tax credit may not have an effect on passing background checks, I feel that it may encourage businesses to hire people with a disability like myself. So please support HB 1870 as there are many people with a disability who desire to work.

Thank you for your time,

Garren Lo – Ko'olau Clubhouse

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HB 1870

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

My name is Garren Lo and I am a member of the Ko'olau Clubhouse. I have a disability and have found that it is difficult to find jobs in the community. I am writing in support of HB 1870, RELATING TO TAXATION, because I feel providing a tax credit will be an incentive for employers to hire people like me.

The program I attend, Ko'olau Clubhouse is a psycho-social rehabilitation program for adults with mental illness. The purpose of this program is to socialize adults with mental illness back into the community, and a major component of the Clubhouse is the employment program. We have a program called transitional employment where we have an agreement with an employer within the community. Members, like myself, are able to fill the position for a period of 6-9 months. And, if we do not show up to work the staff person fills the position at no cost to the employer. This positions allows us to build a resume and gives many members the ability to try out different types of employment positions within the community. This agreement is challenging for us to secure; however I believe that if the tax credit is given then the employers may be more open to these positions.

So please support HB 1870 as I feel that having a tax credit for hiring individuals with a disability will provide people like myself with opportunities to work.

Thank you for your time,

2