

SB573

Measure Title:	RELATING TO GROUP LIVING FACILITIES.
Report Title:	Group Living Facilities; Notice; Operation; Clean and Sober Homes Registry
Description:	Specifies that until the department of health establishes the clean and sober homes registry, group living facility operators shall be permitted to operate upon providing notice of operation to the applicable county.
Companion:	HB685
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	KEITH-AGARAN, BAKER, INOUYE, Dela Cruz, English

SB-573

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 9:16:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/20/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

From: Sandra Diaz
2685 Kokomo Road
Haiku, HI 96708
(808) 298-6592

To: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 20th, 2019
9:15 am
Room 229

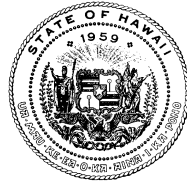
Re: Strong Support for SB 573

Aloha to all members of the committee,

My name is Sandra Diaz and I have been a case manager on Maui for over 10 years, working specifically with individuals struggling with severe and persistent mental health diagnosis. Often, those who live with these illnesses also experience co-occurring physical illness and/or substance use disorders that place them at higher risk of homelessness or mortality. The resources to address the complex and varied needs of these individuals is already very limited in our communities. I appreciate the opportunity to show my strong support for this bill. I am sure that the committee is aware of the housing crisis our island's are facing. Housing becomes even more of a challenge for community members living with the illnesses I've described above, and it is because of the increased risk of adding to our houseless population, that I urge the committee to support SB 573. It's imperative that we keep the resources that we have available without creating unnecessary barriers or additional challenges, that don't help us address the larger issues we have to tackle. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Sandra Diaz



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on (SB 0573)
RELATING TO GROUP LIVING FACILITIES**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 20, 2019

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) understands the importance of
3 getting the voluntary clean and sober registry operational as soon as practicable, however we
4 believe this bill may be unnecessary for the following reasons:

- 5 1. The DOH clean and sober registry is about complete. The registry's website is ready
6 to be deployed from a test website to a production site. The final component which is
7 the administrative rules (HAR Chapter 11-178) was delivered to the Office of the
8 Governor just before Regular Session which started January 16, 2019. After the
9 Governor approves, the rules then become effective ten (10) days after it is posted
10 and filed with the Lieutenant Governor. The DOH believes the final rules will be
11 available for distribution before this measure is signed into law.
- 12 2. This measure may have the unintended consequence of allowing owners and
13 operators of clean and sober homes to hold themselves out as a "registered clean and
14 sober home" even if they have no intention of actually applying on the registry nor
15 upholding the minimum standards the DOH believes is necessary for the operation of
16 clean and sober homes. The Clean and Sober and Halfway Houses Task Force in its
17 report to the 2013 State Legislature agreed to establish a voluntary registry of homes,
18 meaning that all clean and sober homes are not required by law to apply. A key
19 function of the voluntary registry is to enable agencies that refer clients to clean and

1 sober homes to monitor residences that provide the necessary support for substance
2 abuse recovery efforts.
3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.