HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO ADOPT RULES AND PROCEDURES REGULATING CLEAN AND SOBER HOMES AND HALFWAY HOUSES.

WHEREAS, clean and sober homes and halfway houses provide a supportive means for individuals to return to the community in a home-like environment without the structure of a special treatment facility or therapeutic living program, both of which require licensure; and

WHEREAS, clean and sober homes and halfway houses provide stable living conditions beneficial to sustained recovery from substance abuse and for helping mental health clients and persons released from incarceration to transition back to independent life in the community; and

WHEREAS, since clean and sober homes and halfway houses are situated in communities throughout the State, it is important to ensure that housing regulations are applied fairly and consistently in each county; and

WHEREAS, community residents have expressed concern over the operation of such homes in their immediate vicinity and the homes' compliance with all state and county laws; and

WHEREAS, the needs and concerns of the community must be balanced with the needs of individuals requiring the support provided by clean and sober housing; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the council of each county under section 46-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prescribe rules, regulations, and administrative procedures and to enforce any ordinance regarding county zoning, including the regulation of clean and sober homes and halfway houses; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the council of each county is requested to hold a public informational meeting intended to educate and notify the community of clean and sober homes and halfway houses within the vicinity, and encourage the issuance of a permit by a county agency as required by section 46-4(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council of each county is encouraged to balance the concerns of the community with the needs of individuals requiring the support provided by clean and sober homes and halfway houses; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council of each county is encouraged to develop a plan for monitoring clean and sober homes and halfway houses to ensure compliance with occupancy and zoning requirements as defined by section 46-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, using the most appropriate practices for the regulation of these facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the respective Chairs of the County Councils of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and of the Honolulu City Council.

OFFERED BY:

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