

# GOV. MSG. NO. 1354

#### EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR KE KIA'ĀINA

July 7, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate, and Members of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 The Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, and Members of the House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature State Capitol, Room 431 Honolulu, Hawaiii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 7, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1081 HD1 SD1

RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED CARE HOMES. **ACT 251** 

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.

Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUL 7 2023

ACT 251

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023 STATE OF HAWAII H.B. NO. H.D.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED CARE HOMES.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
- 2 health has conducted investigations on two hundred twenty-one
- 3 alleged unlicensed care homes during the past forty-eight months
- 4 and has closed eleven homes and assessed \$2,489,800 in
- 5 administrative penalties. Investigations on eighty-nine
- 6 unlicensed homes are underway or pending. Meanwhile, unlicensed
- 7 care homes continue to operate and pose a danger to the public
- 8 and frail, elderly, and vulnerable populations.
- 9 The legislature further finds that under existing law,
- 10 there are two provisions that assess administrative penalties
- 11 that can be imposed on care home operators. Under section
- 12 321-486.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the fine for each day of
- 13 uncertified or unlicensed operation of a care home is only \$100
- 14 for the first violation, up to a maximum of \$1,000 for
- 15 subsequent violations. The legislature notes that unlicensed
- 16 care homes charge as much as \$8,000 per month per client for
- 17 multiple clients. A penalty under section 321-20(1), Hawaii

- 1 Revised Statutes, of up to \$1,000 per day regardless of the
- 2 number of prior violations would be a better remedial penalty to
- 3 prevent operators from financially benefiting from operating a
- 4 care home without a certificate or license.
- 5 SECTION 2. Section 321-486.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 6 repealed.
- 7 ["[§321-486.3] Penalty. Any person who intentionally
- 8 operates a care facility without a certificate or license shall
- 9 be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined no more than:
- 10 (1) \$100 for each day of uncertified or unlicensed
- 11 operation for the first violation;
- 12 (2) \$500 for each day of uncertified or unlicensed
- 13 operation for the second violation; and
- 14 (3) \$1,000 for each day of uncertified or unlicensed
- 15 operation for the third and each succeeding
- 16 violation."]
- 17 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 18 and stricken.
- 19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

**GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII** 

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#### THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 2, 2023 Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023.

Kim

Scott K. Saiki Speaker House of Representatives

M. L. , ale

Brian L. Takeshita

Chief Clerk

House of Representatives

### THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 11, 2023 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.

President of the Senate

Clerk of the Senate