



## **SCR8\_SR10 Counties Expedite Permitting for Aging & People with Disabilities**

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

Sen. Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Monday, Mar 30, 2026: 1:02: Room 225 Videoconference

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SCR8/SR10:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services such as stabilization crisis, harm reduction and supportive housing.*

We strongly support this measure urging counties to act within forty-five days on permit applications for medically necessary home modifications.

**Especially important now that substance abuse agencies are now entering the housing arena to provide professionally management housing for the most chronic.**

For individuals with substance use disorders, recovery is a recognized disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Safe, stable, and appropriately modified housing is not optional—it is essential to health, safety, and sustained recovery.

**Delays in permitting can mean prolonged risk, relapse, or even loss of housing for vulnerable individuals.** SUD treatment providers and recovery residences serve people with disabilities and must be treated with the same urgency and protections afforded under the ADA.

This measure helps ensure timely, reasonable accommodations and supports continuity of care. We respectfully ask your support.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond and are available for questions.



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Monday, Mar. 30, 2026: 1:07 : Room 225 Videoconference

## **Hina Mauka Strongly Supports SCR8,SR10**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.*

We are writing in strong support of this measure requiring counties to act within forty-five days on applications related to medically necessary home modifications. However, we also highlight that this action is needed not just on medically necessary home modifications, but also on **all applications that relate to approvals for permits needed for the Aging and people with Disabilities**, which includes housing for **Substance Use Disorders**.

Timely access to appropriate housing is a critical component of care for individuals living with Substance Use Disorders (SUD). Increasingly, treatment providers are stepping forward to develop and operate professionally managed housing environments designed to serve individuals with the most complex and chronic needs. These settings are essential to stabilizing health, reducing relapse risk, and supporting long-term recovery.

Despite these efforts, providers routinely encounter significant barriers when attempting to establish or modify housing. These include burdensome permitting requirements, inconsistent local practices, and, in some cases, policies that raise serious concerns regarding fairness and legality. Stigma surrounding substance use disorders continues to influence decision-making in ways that delay or prevent the creation of safe and supportive housing options.

It is important to underscore that individuals in recovery are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Access to appropriate housing—particularly housing that may require modification to meet health and safety needs—is not discretionary. It is a

necessary accommodation that directly impacts an individual's ability to maintain recovery and avoid adverse outcomes.

When permitting processes are prolonged, the consequences are not merely administrative—they are human. Delays can disrupt care, increase the likelihood of relapse, and leave individuals without stable housing at critical moments in their recovery journey.

By establishing clear timelines for county action, this measure promotes accountability, reduces unnecessary delays, and helps ensure that providers can deliver housing solutions in a timely and effective manner. It is a practical step toward aligning local processes with the urgency of need and the legal protections afforded to this population.

We respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for allowing us to testify.

**SCR-8**

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 7:03:11 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

10 SR URGING THE COUNTIES TO ACT ON ANY BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION OF A RESIDENCE THAT IS PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND FOUND BY THE COUNTY TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THE SAFETY OR HEALTH OF AN OLDER ADULT OR PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF RECEIPT OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION.

**LATE**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR  
Executive Office on Aging

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 90/SR85  
REQUESTING THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT OF EACH COUNTY TO  
ESTABLISH KUPUNA-FRIENDLY BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR  
PARKING ACCESSIBILITY AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES OPERATING HOURS**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Monday, March 30, 2026, 1:02 p.m.

Conference Room: 225

- 1 The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health (DOH),
- 2 supports SCR 90/SR85 and offers one comment.
- 3 Accessible parking and accommodation are lacking in public areas such as shopping centers,
- 4 malls, and big box stores. Older adults as well as those with disabilities could benefit from
- 5 kupuna friendly hours as well as additional parking to make their experiences of engaging in
- 6 their community more beneficial. Individuals with sensory issues and physical limitations could
- 7 also benefit from these recommendations for kupuna. Therefore, we would request a friendly

- 1 amendment to include “individuals with disabilities” to this resolution. We appreciate the intent
- 2 of this bill and hope for its passage.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.