

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 1157 Relating to Discrimination in Real Property Transactions

HEARING DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (HAR) and its 9,600 members. HAR **opposes** S.B. 1157 which creates a protected class by prohibiting discrimination in real estate transactions based on the ownership of a domesticated animal.

HAR believes that S.B. 1157 is overly broad as it would create a protected class of owners of domesticated pets in **all** types of real property transactions – whether residential or commercial.

HAR respectfully requests that S.B. 1157 be held due to the broad language and creation of a new and unique protected class

However, if the Committee is inclined to pass this measure, we humbly request the following amendment:

1. An effective date of November 1, 2009 should be specified so that HAR may review and revise its Rental Agreement and other forms accordingly.

HAR looks forward to working with our state lawmakers in building better communities by supporting quality growth, seeking sustainable economies and housing opportunities, embracing the cultural and environmental qualities we cherish, and protecting the rights of property owners.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.