

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16, 2006

RE: H.B. No. 1965
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1965
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DRUG TREATMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to address the inadequate and
limited amount of residential drug treatment opportunities in
rural areas, especially on the neighbor islands.

Specifically, the bill appropriates an unspecified amount to
build and operate residential drug treatment facilities for adults
and children in rural areas in the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and
Kauai.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the measure
from the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, Hawaii Substance
Abuse Coalition, and the Drug Policy Action Group.

Your Committee finds that, in order to develop safe, healthy
communities, substance abuse treatment must be available to those
who need it. There are no adult residential treatment facilities
on the islands of Kauai and Hawaii. Moreover, there are no
adolescent residential services available on Kauai. While the
island of Maui offers both adult and adolescent treatment
programs, the programs are often full, thus generating a waiting
list for those who need treatment.



In addition, your Committee notes that, while some individuals may have the resources or family support to travel to Oahu or Maui, there are many that lack travel funds or prefer to remain on the island of their residence.

Your Committee has amended the measure by inserting \$1 as the appropriated amount to ensure continued discussion on this issue.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1965, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1965, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair



