

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 2, 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2082

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. 2082  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR SCHOOL-BASED  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to provide adolescent substance  
abusers with appropriate treatment by appropriating funds to  
support increased school-based substance abuse treatment programs  
for middle schools.

The Department of Health, Blueprint for Change, Hawaii Youth  
Services Network, Drug Policy Action Group, Hina Mauka, Hawaii  
Substance Abuse Coalition, and several concerned individuals  
supported this bill. The Department of Education supported the  
intent of this measure.


Your Committee finds that abuse of illicit substances is a  
serious health and safety issue facing the youth of Hawaii. It is  
estimated that more than 6,500 students in grades six through  
twelve statewide, need access to treatment for alcohol or drug  
abuse. A recent Department of Health (DOH) study found  
adolescents are at serious risk of developing drug or alcohol  
dependency problems and treatment must be made available to them  
as early as possible.



More can be done, however, to provide adequate coverage to address this problem. Our charter school system should not be ignored. Your Committee finds that it is important for DOH to assess the needs of our charter schools with regard to establishing school-based substance abuse treatment programs.

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. 2082 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Education.

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



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DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair



