

HB 2023 Relating to Drug Addiction Treatment

Establishe a pilot project at Hina Mauka to treat crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) addiction using Vivitrol (long-acting injectable form of naltrexone).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008 8:00: AM Conference Room 329

Represenatative Josh Green M.D., Chair

Represenative John Mizuno, Vice Chair

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

GOOD MORNING CHAIR GREEN, VICE CHAIR MIZUNO AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO of Hina Mauka and current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than twenty non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

Vivitrol is indicated for the treatment of alcohol dependence in patients who are able to abstain from alcohol prior to treatment. In other words, Vivitrol helps patients by substantially reducing cravings, thereby helping psychosocial treatment to be more effective and helps to reduce possible relapse. It is also approved by the National Institute for Drug Addiction (NIDA) for alcohol addiction to reduce cravings.

Hina Mauka supports HB 2023:

While Vivitrol is approved to reduce alcohol cravings, there are indications that Vivitrol may be also effective in reducing ICE cravings. In a partnership with the University of Hawai’i and Alkermes, a distributor of Vivitrol, we propose to determine that efficacy for reducing the cravings for ICE addiction. This is important since the clear majority of addiction patients have multi-usages that often include both alcohol and ICE.

We intend to design and prepare medical policies and procedures to effectively administer the injectable form at a treatment strategy to improve outcomes and reduce the potential for relapse.

These new NIDA “approved and tested” medications are proving to be most effective for supplementing psycho-social treatment. Treatment agencies need assistance to implement new medical procedures as well as determine which medications are effective for Hawaii’s patients and culture.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information and are available for questions, if needed.