

Representative Josh Green, Chair
House Health Committee, Room 329
House Bill 2023, Rep. Mizuno et al, Sponsors
January 23, 2008

2023
LATE
Testimony

Dear Chair Green:

Island Recovery Centers strongly agrees that crystal methamphetamine addiction represents a serious and significant public health crisis in the State of Hawaii. It represents a most pressing need in addiction treatment programs and impacts almost every facet of community life with severe financial, legal, personal, health and safety implications. It is also a reality that many current treatment approaches are largely ineffective.

It is imperative that new treatment modalities be developed in Hawaii. Vivitrol has been demonstrated as effective in the treatment of alcoholism and is being evaluated by the pharmaceutical sponsor for possible efficacy in other addictions. It is important that any evaluation of such a medication be carried out systematically and scientifically so that the data will be meaningful.

As the pharmaceutical company holding the rights to Vivitrol has an interest in carrying out this research, and has resources to support such efforts, it may be advisable to request support for an investigator-initiated study of Vivitrol to this company. The University of Hawaii, or other local researchers, could initiate such a request. If this could be done in conjunction with the pilot project proposed by HB2023, and the program expanded sufficiently to provide results that could be broadly viewed as meaningful, then we would be favorably disposed to support the bill.

Further, it is worthwhile that the Legislature consider supporting all potential new approaches to the treatment of crystal methamphetamine. We recommend that funding be provided to initiate pilot programs for those new treatments where there has been demonstration of benefit in Hawaii or elsewhere.

Mahalo,

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