



**HB 2023 RELATING TO DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT**  
House Committee on Human Services & Housing

January 23, 2008  
Room: 329

8:00am

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports HB 2023. There has been an overwhelming use of crystal methamphetamine within our families and communities. Drug abuse has rippled its negative effects on the quality of life and its lethality has impacted the fragile family system. Today, we see that 90% of Child Protective Service cases are due to drug use. Our kupuna, over 14,000 are now caring for their grandchildren. Further, we clearly see a high, unprecedented rate of incarceration in the history of the criminal justice system.

It is neglectful that Hawai'i lacks the basic necessity of access to drug treatment programs statewide. The nature of addiction would serve as a means to make services readily and available in a timely manner. Disheartening and oftentimes, individuals who are motivated to change wait several weeks or even months before receiving help.

The economic costs in rehabilitation treatment services greatly impact the protective factors in one's recovery. Effective drug treatment programs help to reduce costs of hospitalization and incarceration which outweighs more than the cost of treatment. For example, it costs more than of \$35,000.00 a year for an individual who is incarcerated whereas, substance abuse treatment costs and average about \$3,400.00. Naturally, to place funds for drug treatment where it will be most beneficial to the individuals, their families and the community seems reasonable and humanely.

OHA supports HB 2023 to fund a drug treatment pilot project. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony.