

HB 2556 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Appropriates funds for school-based substance abuse programs and for therapeutic living programs.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FEB. 6, 2008 2:00 PM ROOM 309

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Vice Chair

GOOD MORNING CHAIR TAKUMI, VICE CHAIR BERG, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

I support HB 2556:

Testimony:

Aloha, My name is Malia Tokioka and I have been working for Hina Mauka Teen care for over 6 years on the island of Kauai. I have seen young people achieve recovery and turn their lives around due to receiving help for their drug and alcohol problems. I have worked with teenagers ranging from 11 to 19 years of age. I have followed most of them up through the grades and have found that many of them have made significant changes due to their recovery. Many of them have graduated, went to college, brought up their grades, got off probation, have healthier relationships and much more.

Programs such as Hina Mauka Teen CARE are very important in this day and age. Substance Abuse is starting at a young age and with these programs our youth are able to access drug and alcohol treatment free of charge and convenient being that it is located on campus.

Please consider funding this program and others like it to help insure the future of our Keiki of Hawaii. They need the continued support of our programs and the schools are very supportive. Our community utilizes the counselor's to educate and provide information to help bring understanding to this on going problem that teens struggle with.

Mahalo for all you do for our Keiki of Hawaii. Please continue to support our Hina mauka Teen Care program here on the island of Kauai.

Mahalo Malia Rosa Tokioka
Supervising Counselor of Teen CARE Kauai

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GOOD MORNING CHAIR TAKUMI AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Paige Honjo I am the Site Counselor at Hina Mauka Teen C.A.R.E. at Kauai High School.

I support HB 2556:

Testimony:

I support the Teen C.A.R.E. program because as a Site Counselor here at Kauai High School for the past year and a half, I have seen how drugs and alcohol can affect everyone, including students here at the high school. Adolescents are at a difficult time in their life where they are making life changing choices and programs like Teen C.A.R.E. can help ensure that they make positive choices in their life. At a time when parents may be at a loss of what to say or how to support their child who may be having trouble, Teen C.A.R.E. is there to offer support, guidance and a chance to work with the families of students through family counseling.

I grew up here on Kauai and although I am not a recovering addict or alcoholic, my life has been affected by alcohol and drugs through the experiences of family members or friends that have struggled with their own addiction. I believe that everyone should have a chance to shine and by doing the work I do as a substance abuse counselor, I am helping students find their light to be productive, law abiding citizens.

I also feel that as an outer island we are struggling with an alcohol and drug abuse problem that is unique to Oahu in that Kauai lacks a strong support system for recovering addicts. Teen C.A.R.E. is one of only two places on the island of Kauai that an adolescent can receive support to overcome an addiction. Having only two options makes it very easy for another student to be left behind struggling to deal with their problems on their own.

Conclusion

We applaud the Legislator's taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I appreciate the opportunity to provide information.