

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees on Health and Education
S.B. 2403, RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 6, 2008, 1:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** We appreciate the intent of this bill, which appropriates funds for
2 school-based substance abuse services and the establishment of therapeutic living programs, however,
3 we are concerned that the measure will adversely impact our priorities in the Executive Supplemental
4 Budget.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** \$2,116,062 of General Funds, to be expended by the Department of Health in
6 Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for school-based
8 substance abuse services and the establishment of therapeutic living programs.

9 The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) strongly believes that school-based substance
10 abuse treatment programs are an effective mechanism to treat, intervene, and counsel many of our
11 at-risk youth statewide. The array of services available to youth within the school-based programs
12 include: crisis intervention; screening and assessment; individual, group, and family sessions for
13 education and counseling; peer and adult role modeling; information dissemination; referral services;
14 and clean and sober recreational activities.

1 ADAD acknowledges that due to the different procurement cycles, funding allocations to various
2 agencies across the state to support school-based substance abuse treatment services vary. The amounts
3 awarded during these cycles were based on historical funding patterns as well as federal and state
4 resource limitations. School-based treatment service procured under the most recent Request for
5 Proposal (RFP) issued on September 20, 2004 allowed applicant agencies to request between
6 \$10,000 and \$90,000 per year based on school student enrollment numbers as follows: \$90,000 for
7 schools with an enrollment of 600 students or more; \$45,000 for schools with an enrollment of 300 to
8 599 students; \$22,500 for schools with an enrollment of 150 to 299 students; and \$10,000 for schools
9 with less than 150 students. ADAD also acknowledges that if this distribution was applied to all
10 school-based programs statewide, an additional \$705,000 per year would be needed. As ADAD must
11 work within its current budgeted resources, the division will continue to evaluate and assess the existing
12 school-based treatment services system in order to make needed program improvement and any changes
13 in funding allocation. The division anticipates that even without additional resources, adjustments
14 would be made that would minimize the varying award amounts among service agencies in the next
15 up-coming procurement period for programs beginning in FY 2009.

16 ADAD also supports various therapeutic living programs across the state that provide structured
17 residential living to individuals who are without appropriate living alternatives and who are currently
18 receiving, are in transition to, or who have been clinically discharged from a substance abuse day,
19 intensive outpatient, or outpatient treatment service. The focus of this program is to provide the
20 necessary support and encouragement so that clients can complete treatment outside of the structured
21 treatment program, adjust to a chemically abstinent lifestyle, and manage activities of daily living so that
22 they can move towards independent housing and life management. Activities can include, but are not
23 limited to: needs assessment, service planning, individual and group skill building, referral and linkage,
24 case management, client support and advocacy, monitoring, and follow-up.

1 ADAD currently supports 12 therapeutic living programs statewide (four on Maui, six on
2 Hawaii, and two on Oahu) the division does not fund any therapeutic living programs on Kauai.
3 ADAD's therapeutic living programs are funded at approximately \$27,000 per program bed, per year.
4 The division estimates that the additional resources requested in Senate Bill 2403 would fund an
5 additional 43 beds per year (16 beds on Oahu, 16 beds on Kauai, and 11 beds on Maui) and would
6 provide services for approximately 130 additional clients.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEB. 6, 2008 1:15 PM ROOM 225

Jud R. Cunningham, CEO
Aloha House, Inc.
444 Hana Highway, #201
Kahului, HI 96732

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jud Cunningham. I am the Chief Executive Officer for Aloha House, Inc., a nonprofit corporation which is contracted by the State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division to provide both school-based substance abuse and therapeutic living programs.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

Adolescent Treatment

We wish to acknowledge legislative action taken in recent years to increase the availability of funding for school-based substance abuse treatment on Maui and throughout Hawai'i. On Maui, our agency contracts with ADAD to deliver these services in five high schools and six intermediate schools, including those on the island of Lana'i. We have experienced great progress in this area with many youth choosing a drug free lifestyle over the debilitating effects of substance abuse.

Because we are not able to provide services for all eligible youth who wish to participate in these programs and have large waiting lists, we support the intent of this bill to increase the funding level at the high schools to the full-funding level of \$90,000 per high school, which is allocated for most of the Oahu-based high schools. Full funding is needed to address those students who are on the wait lists to access services.

Therapeutic Living Programs (TLP):

We are also requesting your support of this bill to increase the availability of Therapeutic Living Services on Maui and where needed throughout the State. While the ratio of adult men and women seeking treatment is roughly two males to one female, we currently have only one-half the number of TLP beds for males (10) as for females for all of Maui.

Conclusion

We applaud the Legislator's efforts to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.
Thank you for the opportunity to demonstrate our support for SB 2403.

SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEB. 6, 2008 1:15 PM ROOM 225

Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

Sen. David Ige, Chair
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

HSAC supports SB 2403 with recommendations:

Adolescent Treatment

We are grateful for the Legislator's insightful action to curb the onslaught of addiction in Hawai'i by providing treatment funding such that there is now an alcohol and drug treatment program in every public high school and public middle school in the entire state of Hawai'i. The outcomes are phenomenal and the state-prepared outcomes are attached for your review. When you consider that treatment includes abuse and addiction, the outcomes for both abstinence as well as occasional use (alcohol) – in other words, the outcomes for students being productively engaged in school is about 90%. Clearly, school-based treatment is far more effective and less costly than treatment for adults.

However, there were several schools, primarily high schools, on Kauai, Maui, Oahu and the Big Island that were not funded at the usual \$90,000 per school per year. While it did take a few years for services to be integrated into their school systems and trustful relationships to be formed with students, those schools have fully utilized services and now have wait lists for the last 3 years. The full funding is needed to address those students who are on the wait lists to access services.

Furthermore, the student culture at those schools has changed such that 90% of the students seeking treatment are voluntary rather than mandatory. This is a significant change in adolescent culture that has occurred over the last few years and contributes to the increased wait list.

There are 5 schools on Kauai, 4 schools on Maui and 1 school on Oahu that request significant funding to reach the full and usual funding amount of \$90,000 per school in order that they can adequately address the wait lists at their schools.

In addition there are another 12 schools on Oahu that are about \$5,000 short of full funding and we request full funding for those schools as they also want to expand counselor time to meet the treatment demands of the students.

On the Big Island, there are 18 schools that were recently funded that were less than full funding. This occurred because so many of the schools were smaller in census. However, now that the treatment agency on the Big Island has experience in providing treatment, they report that regardless of school size, a certain amount of counselor hours are needed to meet service requirements. The Big Island asks for funding for 18 schools so that they can provide adequate care to students who are requesting treatment services for abuse and/or addiction.

Recommendation:

Based on a contract analysis using Department of Health public records, the Coalition requests the following revisions in funding:

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of ~~\$940,062~~ \$705,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, and the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010, for substance abuse services for youth and adolescents. The amount appropriated shall be apportioned as follows:

Oahu	\$ 100,000	
Kauai	180,000	
Maui	80,000	121,000
Hawaii	580,062	399,676

Therapeutic Living Programs (TLP):

Currently, there are no residential services on Kauai. Furthermore, there are over-capacity issues on Maui and Oahu where there are residential services. TLP(s) are a hybrid of residential and day treatment (high level outpatient services) that, while not at residential level, these services can and do meet the needs of many clients, especially those residents who are reluctant to travel to another island for residential treatment.

At this time, there are no residential nor TLP on the island of Kauai. Many residents have demonstrated the need for such services, but many are unwilling to leave the island to access higher levels of care. Also, without on island services, the community is not effectively engaged in a manner that would help support access to services. This funding would start the first TLP on Kauai.

While Oahu and Maui do have residential services, these services are at capacity with long wait lists. A TLP on Oahu would help with capacity issues and is much less expensive to start and operate than residential. The intent is that the TLP would allow those residents who have needs greater than outpatient to access that level of care (TLP) thus freeing up the wait list to access residential care. The request is for 1 TLP on each island.

Conclusion

We applaud the Legislator's decisive previous actions that have proven to be making a difference in reducing drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. On behalf of HSAC, we appreciate the opportunity to provide information and are available for questions.

support SB 2403.

Amy Ancheta

H.P. Baldwin High School

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Amy Ancheta. I am a science teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have one full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

We applaud the Legislator's taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Amy Ancheta

Kainoa Arensdorf

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Kainoa Arensdorf. I am a the department head of the counseling department at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population.

Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

(Jaye Arakaki)

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Jaye Arakaki. I am the account clerk at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Maile A. Atay. I am the Outreach Counselor at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. I have been a counselor at Baldwin High School for the past 9 years. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Our Drug Counselor has a very effective program on campus and offers a warm inviting place for our students to get the necessary counseling. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin High School is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

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2/18
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Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Caine Schlenker. I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Graham DeVey

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Graham DeVey. I am a science teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

(TESTIMONY SB 2403 - TRISHA JANE A. ROY)

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige, and distinguished committee members:

My name is Trisha Jane A. Roy and I am an English teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku, Maui. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill (SB) 2403.

There is no hiding that there is a big drug problem on Maui. Since becoming a teacher and returning to Maui, I have witnessed first hand how this drug problem has extended it's evil arm and has affected our youth at Baldwin High School.

We currently have a full-time licensed drug counselor whose program is at maximum capacity. She already sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis, but unfortunately because she is the only drug counselor on campus for a population of 1,600 students, these students who need the necessary help must be turned away. Currently, there is approximately 30+ students on a waiting list to get services from our drug counselor. Homakahou, which was Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers, closed its doors in December due to inadequate funding. Baldwin High School is in great need of another drug counselor or more funding to hold drug counseling programs on our campus. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services have been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population, but without funding this type of services will be difficult or impossible to establish.

We applaud the Legislature for taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction and hope that you will not forget that the drug problem in Hawaii does not only affect the big city, but also the little

places on the outer islands. Please consider H.P. Baldwin High School as a recipient for this funding, so we in turn can help our youth fight this on-going battle.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marci Nakamoto

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Marci Nakamoto. I am a counselor at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

SB 2403 Relating to Substance Abuse

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and Distinguished Committee Members:

My name is Iris Nitta and I am a counselor at Henry Perrine Baldwin High School on Maui. I have been a counselor here since 1981 but have also counseled at Highlands Intermediate in Pearl City (8 years) and Puunene/Waihee Schools (3 years). As a seasoned counselor, I have seen the need for substance abuse counseling since many of our students are users of the various substances (drugs as well as alcohol). Many parents are not aware of their child's use of illegal substances OR will not take them for outside counseling OR don't know how to access the resources.

We have had many student deaths in auto accidents through the years I've spent here at Baldwin, a great number of whom were under the influence. It has been very distressing to have the problem and to be known as the school that has had one of the largest number of deaths (but there are limited resources for adolescents in the community).

The drug counseling program that was put in place here at the school for many years through the Department of Health has been a godsend for students who self-refer themselves or whom we refer. We have gone from a half-time position to a full-time position with a wait list and are presently hoping for another half-time position to assist those who are seeking help. The students involved come from all sectors of our community.

Having the program on campus makes it easier for the students to get the help. Maui just put in place a bus system within the last year and it is still limited. Many of the students wouldn't be able to access services outside because of transportation problems. We counselors have worked closely with the drug counselor in getting assistance for our students and parents. Besides the in-school services, there is a great need to continue the residential treatment for adolescents. Having this program available on the island helps families as well as the students so they don't have to go off-island to places such as the Bobby Benson program on Oahu.

Your consideration for passing SB2403 to continue funding is greatly appreciated. We applaud the Legislature taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns.

Another drug counselor for BHS PLEASE!

From : Marsha Lash

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Marsha Lash I am a special education teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

DAILY, I work with students who are struggling with drugs or drug related problems.

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Baldwin Drug Counselor

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Cathy Knowlton. I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Sincerely, Cathy Knowlton

(Malakai Panuve)

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is (Malakai Panuve). I am a (teacher) at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Hawaii State Legislature, Room 225

From: Colleen Fox

Date: 2/6/2008, 1:15 am

Re: SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Appropriates funds for school-based substance abuse programs and for therapeutic living programs.

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Colleen Fox. I am the Director of Adolescent Services at Hina Mauka. I am testifying as someone who has experience seeing the challenges of substance abuse and the solutions that treatment can bring, but also as an individual who is vested in the welfare of the community. I would like to testify in **support of SB 2403**.

Substance abuse is a problem that has an extensive impact. The problem affects the individual, as well as the family and the community. Not only does it have a negative influence on a person's health which impacts the medical system, but it is an issue that also impacts our legal, psychiatric, employment, and school system. Its' effects are pervasive in our culture. The legislature is making efforts to address the problem of substance abuse by providing treatment services to those in need. I applaud this body's efforts to identify needs that have not been adequately addressed, such as the neighbor islands, and fund resources to meet the challenge of the substance abuse.

Substance abuse treatment services are an essential part of the health services that support the people of our state. When people receive substance abuse treatment services it can stop a pattern of problematic use that has been painful for the individual and his family, but also has been expensive for society. Treatment services are a much less expensive option to emergency room visits, hospitalization, arrests, incarceration, as well as additional teaching and support resources.

In Kauai, we have found a great need for substance abuse treatment services. There are more people in need than we have the ability to serve. It is important for individuals to find support and help within their own communities in order to sustain them and connect them to healthy positive influences over the long term. No one wants to see individuals, whether adolescents or adults, fall through the cracks. Thus I support the Senate's efforts to create a stronger safety net through SB 2403.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of SB 2403.

Nina Whitney
115 Alaluana Rd.
Makawao, HI 96768

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

I am a Special Education Teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2403.

There is a tremendous need for services to support families suffering from the effects of drug abuse and addiction. As we know the families of addicts suffer due to the financial choices made by the addict, the mental and physical health of the addict and the increased likelihood of domestic violence that addiction can bring into a home. Baldwin High School students are effected by living in families with addiction, and through their own substance abuse and subsequent addiction.

Baldwin students are lucky to have the exceptional services through our Aloha House Drug Counseling program, a safe place where kids can be open about what is going on in their lives and get facts about how their choices may effect their health and lives. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, are referring students on a weekly basis. There are approximately 30 on the waiting list to that could benefit from the services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services have been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon to support the need in our community. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

We applaud the Legislature's actions to address the issues of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I appreciate the opportunity to provide information.

Sincerely,
Nina Whitney

Good morning Chair Sakamoto , Chair Ige , and distinguished committee members:

My name is Celine Brown. I am a former client of Jamie Umanzor of the Kalihi YMCA.

i support SB 2403:

Testimony :

I support this program because it helps teens like me to take the right path in life. The program gives a place where we can go for support and real life learning tools. I was in the program for 5 months and within those 5 months i learned to trust new people and to eventually become friends with them. Also , I've learned that it's okay to ask for help. It's okay to need someone to be there for you when your at your lowest , even when your peers see you as a very confident person. I know from experience that it's hard to be yourself when the people around you expect to see the complete opposite from you. If you're that type of person it's good to have someone you can go to and just be yourself and ask for advice. Even if the situation may not be a life changing one. Jamie was that person for me. The person who i could go to when i needed someone to talk. Hopefully one day i can be that person for someone like me. That is why i want to pursue a career in substance abuse treatment. I want to be the person who gives someone information on what they may be doing to themselves, like i was. Before the program i was unaware of the consequences of my actions , but then Jamie helped me to see that what i was doing was unhealthy. Now i can say that i am able to make informed decisions regarding my substance use.

Conclusion:

I fully support the Legislator taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I'm glad that i was able to provide this testimony.

testimony

From: Merrily Worrell [kuaipsm@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 3:05 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support SB 2403 and HB 2556

Senate Ed-Health Committee
Sen Norman Sakamoto
House Ed Committee
Rep Roy Takumi

Please support SB 2404 and HB 2556.

Teen Care and Therapeutic Living Programs are important everywhere, but especially on our small neighbor isle of Kauai, where services for MH and Sub Abuse are so limited.

I have worked in DOE as a Mokihana Psychologist and in a Substance Abuse Tx Program, and I am currently Kauai's Program Services Manager for Mental Health Kokua. I have seen first hand the need. Please help us help our future, the children and youth of Kauai.

Thankyou,
Dr. Merrily Worrell

SB 2403 Relating to Substance Abuse

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jennifer Nakamura. I am a Behavioral Health Specialist working for the Department of Education at an Intensive Learning Center. I provide school-based counseling services for students who have emotional and behavioral concerns.

I support SB 2403 because I have seen the growth in the students I service. Through their weekly YMCA sessions, they have learned about the effects of substance abuse and making positive choices for themselves. Our YMCA outreach counselor engages the students through hands-on activities which builds teamwork and leadership skills and guides them in thought-provoking discussions which emphasis substance abuse education.

School-based substance abuse programs such as YMCA play such an instrumental part in the lives of adolescents. Please highly consider continuing such programs as I know first hand the positive impact it has on the students that I work with.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nakamura, MA

Kimberly L. Tengan

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Kimberly Tengan. I am a Language Arts Teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Josephine Chambers. I am a Student Services Coordinator Clerk at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, are referring students on a weekly basis. There are approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services have been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Wade Hondo

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Wade Hondo. I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Tia Medeiros

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Tia Mederos. I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

April Pinsonneault

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is April Pinsonneault. I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Roger Pennington. I am a teacher at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and Distinguished Committee Members:

My name is Emiko Chang. I am a Behavioral Health Counselor at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

TESTIMONY

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui. Our students, also have drug problems. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin High School is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

CONCLUSION

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

Handwritten notes:
2/25/14
2/25/14
2/25/14
2/25/14

FROM: HINA MAUKA

Feb. 4. 2008 12:41PM

KALANI HIGH SCHOOL

HINA MAUKA

: 2008/2/4

No. 149 P. 4

I am a student from Kalaoni High School. Before I was in Teen CARE I was an drug addict. I would be smoking marijuana daily. I would be ditching school every single day. My GPA was like 0.333. And then my friend that was in teen CARE told me to go in it. First I was like "No, and if im in teen CARE i would have to go to school". But one day, when I got arrested for shop lifting my friend forced me to get help. So I joined teen CARE. After joining teen CARE, I started coming to school more and right now my GPA went up to a 3.0. My parents are proud of me. I quit smoking marijuana, I don't ~~smoke~~ drink as much as I did last time. Teen CARE helped me a lot. ~~My~~ ~~friend~~ my counselor helped me w/my problems. I give some advice to my fellow classmates too now.

RM

Feb. 4. 2008 12:41PM KALANI HIGH SCHOOL

Ka. 1149 P. 2

I am writing in support of SB 2403. I am a senior at Kalauni High School and was in the teen care program. I think that teen care is such a great program for high school users to attend. It gives us a retreat to go to escape high school life for a while. I can be really honest in teen care and share my thoughts with others. My counselor really helped me evaluate my issues and help me to deal with them better. Overall I think teen care is an awesome program that some kids need to help get clean.

P.K.

Dear Mr. Gurey,

Happy Thanksgiving, merry Christmas and Happy New Years. I don't know what month this letter will get to you. So I might as well just wish you happy holidays. Well anyway I'm freezing my butt off in central Oregon but it's ok because I'm learning and growing and I've been sober since the last day I saw you. It's almost been 7 months. I never told you how much you've done for me. I am so thankful to have had you in my life. If I would have just listened to you in the first place my whole life would have been better. Everyday is like one of those Mondays where I walk in the door and you say "I told you so?" Manoh. It's a struggle but I'm doing well. You really did make a big impact on my life. You were a great friend to me and the best positive influence my life has ever had. I learned so much from you. I remember when you told us about the islanders who couldn't see the cruise ship because it wasn't in their experience. Every thing is so much clearer now. I guess it's always easier to look back than forward. Of course having been sober for so long helps. I can also recall when Sara came in to talk to us. I remember what she said to me and where I was. Even I myself am so surprised of how far we come. I respect myself so much more now. I can't believe how I used to treat myself and body. I am so thankful I see now how great everything would of. Worried out if I wasn't in such a blurry state of mind. I'm working on my emotional and behavior flaws. I really have come a long way since I was home. I hope to go to Bobby Benson before I go home to Hawaii so I can deal with my substance abuse since this place doesn't really offer that. I'm looking forward to a great new, clean life. I would love to talk to your class about my recovery someday. I really appreciate you for spending your time on me and Sara. We have grown so much closer to each other. I really and love her more than anything in the world. Our relationship really is amazing you would be proud. I know how much you really cared about us. I can't wait to see you! I just got my report card and I have a 4.0 gpa All A's! Every time I go in to the dining hall I see this poster, the same poster you had in the teen care room. It has the ABC's to follow your dreams. It inspires me. It reminds me of you. (a huge motivation)

✓ sheets,

~~_____~~

Kapua Middle School

LATE

SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEB. 6, 2008 1:15 P.M. ROOM 225

Alvin Nagasako

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Alvin Nagasako. I am the Principal of Kapolei High School.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I support SB 2403 that provides funds for school based substance abuse programs. We are fortunate to have the programs. We are fortunate to have the program at Kapolei High School. The staff has provided invaluable counseling support to our students and their families. Substance abuse is a major concern in our schools and with the support of the Kalihi YMCA, we are positioned to help our students received the counseling to overcome their abuse and learn the skills necessary to make good choices.

Conclusion

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

SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

LATE

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEB. 6, 2008 1:15 pm ROOM 225

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Nick Phanphongsa and I am a Freshman at Kaimuki High School and I have benefited from the Kalihi YMCA Outreach Services Program.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I support the Kalihi YMCA Outreach Services Program because it helped me get through school and helped my life get better. Through trust in my counselor and peers and learning about confidentiality I have been sharing and participating more in group and individual sessions which has overall helped me begin to attend school regularly. I used to be scared to talk to people about my problems and now through talking during group and individual sessions I am more comfortable talking in front of other people. I have also referred many people from Kaimuki High School to the program.

Conclusion

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience of the Kalihi YMCA Outreach Services Program. I hope you see how much it has benefited me and my school.

LATE

testimony

From: jrugoat@aim.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 4:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 2403 relating to public health

My name is John Ruiz. I am a senior at Kaimuki High School and have benifited from the Kalihi YMCA Outreach Program.I support SB 2403 because it has personally helped me with my substance abuse problem and reduced the drug related problems in my school. The individual and group sessions have kept me away from relapsing and helped me in making positive choices. I believe in this program and have refered my friends to the program.

More new features than ever. Check out the new [AIM\(R\) Mail!](#)

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEB. 6, 2008 1:15PM ROOM 225

DANNY RUDOMETKIN

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Danny Rudometkin. I am a teacher in an Intensive Learning Center for the central district, and have been working with the YMCA program for the past 8 years.

I support SB 2403

The reason why I support the drug counseling program is because I have seen them make a difference in the students that I have taught. Many of my students are highly at risk, and most of them have been pushed aside by their family, and the system. The counselors that I have worked with provided my students with the support and the needed resources to help them stay off drugs and establish healthy decision making skills. I have personally seen changes in my students attitude toward drugs. The students which the counselors have "touched" have gone from using on a regular basis to remaining abstinent and drug free. While I was working at Waianae High School one of my students who was participating in the program went from using everyday to absolute abstinence. Now he is a productive member of society working as an educational assistant at the Intermediate School. Without the support of this program I don't think he would have made the change.

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

Thank you,

Danny Rudometkin,
(MAEC)
Teacher, Central School District
Adolescent Intensive Learning Center
(808) 622-6456

testimony

From: Joyce_Miyamoto@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 4:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Drug Counselor - HP Baldwin High School

L A T E

Joyce Y. Miyamoto

Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members:

My name is Joyce Miyamoto. I am a Food Science Teacher and Pregnant & Parenting Teen counselor, at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

I am aware that there is a drug problem on Maui and therefore our students also have a drug problem. We currently have a full-time licensed Drug Counselor that is at maximum capacity. She sees 25 students on paper/record, while holding many "ghost groups" with other students. Our staff, administration, counseling department, Student Resource Officer, and Maui County court system, is referring students on a weekly basis. There is approximately 30+ waiting list to get services from our Drug Counselor. Aloha House and Maui Youth & Family Services has been trying to start small drug counseling programs in the community and have talked with schools to discuss other ways to reach the teen population. Homakahou (Maui's only residential treatment home for teenagers) closed in December due to funding. We are hoping that it re-opens soon since the drugs haven't magically disappeared. Baldwin HS's is in great need of another Drug Counselor or more funding to hold Drug Counseling programs on our campus.

Conclusion:

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

FEB-05-2008 TUE 01:55 PM KAUAI HIGH SCHOOL

FAX NO. 808 2743170

P. 02

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KAUAI HIGH SCHOOL
3577 LALA ROAD
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766

LATE

DATE: February 5, 2008

TO: Hina Mauka/Teen CARE Program

ATTENTION: Program Director/Coordinator and Hawaii State Legislature

FROM: Mr. Paul Zina
Vice Principal

RE: SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

I am writing this letter in support of the Hina Mauka/Teen CARE substance abuse rehabilitation program. I ask that we all do our parts in insuring that this program continues at the school level without cutting current funding or program services.

This program provides an essential source of support for identified students. The relationship component that people like Paige Honjo bring to this program is invaluable. In all cases that reach her office, Paige acts as more than a counselor to her clients. Her mentoring is highly valued by the young adults who are fortunate enough to enter the program with her. It would be a great disservice to our State not to provide the Hina Mauka/Teen CARE program with every resource it needs to continue allowing people like Paige Honjo to care for our children. Often, the essential substance abuse care for our children is primarily left up to people like Paige in the Hina Mauka/Teen CARE program. We should give them everything they need to succeed.

Thank you,



Paul Zina
Vice Principal
Kauai High School
3577 Lala Road
Lihue, HI. 96766
(808)274-3173 ext 105
(808)274-3170 fax
Paul_Zina@notes.k12.hi.us

L A T E

SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FEB. 6, 2008 1:15 PM ROOM 225

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Marlene Schimmeifennig. I am a substance abuse counselor for Teen CARE, which is a school based treatment center on the island of Kauai.

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

There is a growing need for drug awareness, education and support for adolescents on Kauai. Teen CARE has helped many teens make positive changes in their lives and guides them to focus on long and short term goals that help them achieve a clean and sober way of life. It amazes me how many young adults are asking for help and looking for answers to their questions and solutions to their challenges. I am also appalled by the number of young adults in the middle schools who abuse alcohol and other psychoactive substances. We are hopeful that we can help mold and shape our future leaders of Kauai with programs like Teen CARE. I urge the Legislature to support SB 2403.

Conclusion

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