

**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

**King Intermediate School**

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

My name is Antonio Toafili. I am currently the site substance abuse counselor for King Intermediate School on the Windward side of Oahu. I am honored and privileged to be working in such a great community serving students who struggle with substance abuse issues. Working at King Intermediate has broadened my perspective to view how important it is to provide this type of service to the students.

Teen CARE not only provides Counseling, Awareness, Rehabilitation, and Education. It shapes the lives of individuals who feel there is no hope. The program is an asset to any school as it is proven that Hawaii has an epidemic problem with substance abuse issues. The program educates teens about prevention, peer pressure and keeping healthy.

**I support SB 2403**

In my experience working with this population, I have experienced a tremendous growth in individuals who are willing to kick their old habits and make the necessary changes needed to support a healthier lifestyle. I hope that we can continue to provide this service to all the Hawaiian Islands and together we can make a difference.

**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,

Mr. Tony Toafili

# LATE TESTIMONY

1. Robert Davis, Vice Principal of Leilehua High School
2. Senate Committee on Education and Senate Committee on Health
3. February 6th, 2008 at 1:15
4. SB 2403

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

My name is Robert Davis. I am a vice principal at Leilehua High School. Prior to administration I was a school counselor for 3 years, a class room teacher for several years and I have been in my current position for six years.

I support SB 2403

I support this program because it impacts our school campus directly. At Leilehua High School, we currently have YMCA drug counseling on campus. YMCA programming allows for a staff member to be on campus almost daily supporting our students. Many students are referred by staff members for services through YMCA. The staff meets with our students weekly to support them in making better decisions and leading a healthier life. They also involve our students in off campus non-school hour activities. We also have students that are mandated to attend YMCA counseling by the judicial system. Having the program on campus increases the attendance rate for the program due to convenience.

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 Diane Omura. I am a Peer Education Coordinator at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailuku on Maui. The Peer Educators and I are very much aware of the need for another drug counselor on campus. We see the problems associated with drug use and feel that kids need to be serviced. We hope you would support us in helping our students in crisis. Thank you

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.

**testimony**

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**From:** Sean\_Tajima/KAPOMID/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 2:05 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 2403 Relating to Substance Abuse

**LATE**

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige, and Distinguished Committee Members,

I support SB 2403. The YMCA counselors provide drug counseling, which is a valuable service to our school. Since the program has started at our school year, we have seen a steady increase in the volume of students seeking YMCA counseling.

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

Sincerely,  
Sean Tajima, Vice Principal  
Kapolei Middle School

**testimony**

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**From:** Charlotte\_Wilkinson/BALDWIN/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 1:56 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 2403

**LATE**

Charlotte Wilkinson

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

My name is Charlotte Wilkinson. 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.

**testimony**

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**From:** Nick Phanphongsa [laosther34@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 4:19 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB2403 Relating to Substance Abuse

**LATE**

My name is Nick Phanphongsa. I am a freshman at Kaimuki High School and have benefited from the Kalihi YMCA Outreach Program. I support SB 2403 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 attending school regularly again. I used to be scared to talk to people about my problems and now through talking during group and single sessions I am more comfortable talking in front of other people. I have also referred many people from Kaimuki High School to the program.

Nick Phanphongsa

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**testimony**

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**LATE**

**From:** Desiree\_DeVito/WAHIAWAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 2:39 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB 2403: Relating to Public Health

Good Morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair IGE and distinguished committee members:

My name is Desiree DeVito. I am the Librarian and cheerleading coach at Wahiawa Middle School where Jamie Umanzor runs the Kalihi YMCA Substance Abuse Program.

I Support SB2403:

Testimony:

I would like to commend Jamie in her continued efforts to support our students here. When you walk through the streets of Wahiawa and see all of the hardships our students struggle with daily. It is a wonder that they are able to succeed here. However, there are so many that are influenced in a negative way with drugs and alcohol. Jamie's program supports our student into making positive life choices. She also assists those who are already involved with harmful and life threatening substances to see that there are better ways to cope with life and stressful situations. Many students do not go home to a loving and supporting environment and for them school is their safe haven. Programs like this show the students someone care about their future, so that they succeed.

I don't know the exact number of success rates but I do know that as the cheerleading coach the students thrive off of having a positive influence. They feed off of having someone to listen and to say a caring word. Even giving one student the knowledge of alternative ways to resist the use of drugs and alcohol is a success to me.

Conclusion:

I fully support any program that allows our students to reach their fullest potential. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this information.

**testimony**

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**LATE**

**From:** Priscilla\_Magallanes/WAHIAWAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 2:23 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** RE: SB 2403 relating to substance abuse

Good Afternoon Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige, and Distinguished Committee members:

My name is Priscilla Magallenes. I am the teacher for the Special Motivations Program at Wahiawa MS. I work directly with Jamie Umanzor of the Kalihi YMCA.

I SUPPORT SB 2403:

The Special Motivations Program at Wahiawa MS is designed to help at-risk students with attendance, behavior, and academic problems. Many of our students are involved with drugs and alcohol and come from homes involved with these problems. I support the YMCA substance abuse program because any additional assistance that focuses on giving the students the tools they need to deal with these issues is extremely valued at the school level.

I applaud the Legistator's taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Magallenes



**testimony**

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**From:** EvieJoy\_Chan/KAPOMID/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 2:26 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Fw: SB 2403 Relating to Substance Abuse

**LATE**

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige, and Distinguished Committee Members,

I support SB 2403. The YMCA counselors provide substance abuse counseling, which is a valuable service to our school. Since the program has started at our school year, we have seen a steady increase in the volume of students seeking YMCA counseling. My students have worked with our YMCA counselor on interventions that we are not trained to work on through regular school counseling services. We applaud the Legislator's taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I appreciate the opportunity to provide information.

Sincerely,  
Evie Joy Chan, Counselor  
Kapolei Middle School

**LATE****testimony**

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**From:** Helen\_Tavares/BALDWIN/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 3:13 PM**To:** testimony**Subject:** Good morning Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and distinguished committee members: My name is (Your name here). I am a (title: teacher, counselor, coordinator, advisor, principal, educational assistant, security, SRO, etc.) at H.P. Baldwin High School in Wailu

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

My name is Helen Tavaers. 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.

**testimony**

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**From:** Annette\_Newman/KAILUAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 3:02 PM

**To:** testimony

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Sakamoto, Chair Ige and Distinguished Committee Members:

My name is Annette Newman. I am the School Health Aide at Kailua High School and I support **SB2403**.

My office is right next to the YMCA's designated counseling center here on the Kailua High School campus.

I've seen first hand the outstanding work that these counselors have done and hope to see their continued efforts for the long term future.

Some of their "alumnus" have come back for a visit and it's so wonderful to see them and how they have matured thanks to the guidance they received by the Y's staff here at Kailua High School.

I have also experienced their success first hand. My son took advantage of their counseling service while he was in high school. They helped him see that there are right and wrong choices. With their guidance he made the right ones. Now he is the owner of a successful business with a family of his own that I am so proud of!

I whole heartedly support **SB2403**

**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 John Ruiz and I am a senior 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 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 referred my friends to this program.

**Conclusion**

Thank you for allowing the Kalihi YMCA Outreach Services Program to make a difference in my school.

FEB-05-2008 TUE 03:48 PM KAMAKAHELEI SCHOOL

FAX NO. 808 241 3210

P. 02

**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 PM ROOM 225****GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:****My name is John Sotelo and I am the TeenCARE site counselor for the past 3 years at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle school on the island of Kauai.****I support SB 2403:****Testimony:****I really support the Teen CARE program because I have worked with over 100 teenagers in the past 3 years and over 90 of them were in & have completed the program. I believe that we have a drug problem on our island that not many people want to admit or are aware of. The Teen CARE program gives these teens a chance to learn how to make positive healthy changes in their lives so they can have bright futures which all our teens deserve. I know the program works because I have seen very positive changes in all of our clients. I have had many reports from their parents, teachers and administration about how they see positive changes in our clients and see the great benefits of the Teen CARE program. The most important thing about the Teen CARE program is that it is a reality that drugs and alcohol ruins families, futures and takes lives and we give our youth who struggle with substance abuse the education, motivation, support and Aloha to live happy and healthy lives.****Conclusion****We applaud the Legislator's taking action to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. I appreciate the opportunity to provide information.****"Mahalo Much and much Aloha"**

**LATE**

**SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

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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

**Teen CARE Students support SB2403. Testimony attached:**

2/4/08

Im writing in supporting of sb  
 2402. I am a student of Kauai high school  
 and im currently going to teen care.  
 TEEN CARE IS A WONDERFUL PROGRAM TO  
 HAVE ON SCHOOL CAMPUS BECAUSE IT HELPS  
 OR CAN HELP PEOPLE MY AGE OR MY PEERS  
 CHANGE BEFORE WE MOVE INTO THE  
 REAL WORLD. TEEN CARE HELPS BY HELPING  
 US MAKE GOOD CHOICES IN LIFE AND  
 WHAT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL CAN DO TO  
 AFFECT YOUR BODY. I BEEN ATTENDING TEEN  
 CARE FOR ONE SEMESTER ALREADY AND SO  
 FAR IT HELPED ME SO MUCH. IT HELPED ME  
 MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND BECAUSE OF THIS  
 I DONT SMOKE MARIJUANA NO MORE AND  
 I AM SO PROUD OF MYSELF. IT ALSO HELPED  
 ME BY GOING TO CLASS EVERYDAY. I THANK  
 TEEN CARE FOR HELPING ME. THE COUNSELLOR  
 THAT I HAVE SHES THE BEST SHES ALWAYS  
 SUPPORTING ME AND BECAUSE OF THIS  
 PROGRAM I LOVE COMING TO SCHOOL  
 NOT JUST TO SEE MY FRIENDS SO I CAN  
 LEARN EVERYTHING I CAN BEFORE I GO INTO  
 THE REAL WORLD. THANK YOU!



Drugs used to be all that I wanted to be doing whenever I was out. I thought there was no way to have fun without being high in any way that I could get high. Before the school enrolled me in TEENCARE the drugs were controlling me. Just for drugs I was stealing money from my family members to support my habit. I was lying to my family and to myself. The TEENCARE program made me actually take control of myself and ~~stop~~ but surely stop doing drugs. TEENCARE also got me thinking about my future because for a while here I thought I had no future and would amount to nothing. I now notice that since I stopped using my energy level is higher my thinking is clearer and I am more focused on achieving what I really want. Also I actually go and stay in school now when before I never could last a whole day. Forever I will be thankful for the help and support given to me through the program by my counselor and peers. That experience the same things I do. I thank TEENCARE for making it possible for me to find my way to sobriety.

Olomani John Cate



I am writing to support SB2403  
I am a student at WCMS and attend  
Teen Care here at school. I feel  
Teen Care is a really good program  
because lots of my friends and me  
want to change but we don't know how  
to on our own. Kaneohe has a big drug  
problem and I'm glad there is Teen  
Care. I used to smoke marijuana everyday  
but now I'm getting better. I actually  
have 30 days clean time right now.  
My counselor has helped me see how  
to be responsible for myself. I feel  
the legislature should <sup>support</sup> programs like  
Teen Care so that more kids can  
get help who have drug & alcohol  
problems.

Mahalo,  
Chala Castillo

I heard there is a bill called SB 11 that supports programs like teen care on the neighbor island. I knew with the teen care I could be harming myself and very lost about how to get help. My friends turned me on to smoking weed and I was drinking alcohol and smoking ~~back drinking~~ and 3-4 times a week. Today I have 14 days drug and alcohol free. I finally found Phylom where I feel safe and can work on my problems & feel safe and can work on my problems. Please support this program.

Annehead.

I would like a bill like SB2403 passed by the legislature so Kauai teenagers can get help with their drug problems. I know on Kauai that there's a lot of students out there drinking and using. I feel we are out of control. I'm really glad my counselor brought me into the program. I feel good here because she listens to me and she helps me be honest because I lie a lot. Teenage is fun and we learn how to help each other. I was failing in school. Now, I'm doing better. I still need help and have a lot of friends who need help too. Please support this bill so we can be a drug free Kauai.

Ua C.

**LATE**

## **SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

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

### **Paige Honjo**

GOOD MORNING CHAIR SAKAMOTO, CHAIR IGE 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 SB 2403:**

#### **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.

**LATE**

## **SB 2403 RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

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

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

### **Brian Gray**

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

My name is Brian Gray I am the Hina Mauka Teen C.A.R.E. site counselor at Kapaa Middle School on the Island of Kauai. In addition, I also operate a transitional for furlough inmates from the Life Time Stand program at the Kauai Community Correctional Center.

### **I support SB 2403:**

#### **Testimony:**

It is a tremendous honor and pleasure to serve the youth and faculty at Kappa Middle School as the Hina Mauka Teen C.A.R.E. on site, school based, substance abuse counselor. The joy I have experienced at having positively impacted the lives of substance abusing teens and their families for nearly two years is beyond words. The types of impact I am referring to are like that of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student who was failing academically when she entered Teen C.A.R.E. and graduated the program with a 4.0 G:PA and was rated number 1 in a class of 265 as a direct result of her abstinence from drugs and alcohol.

Because Teen C.A.R.E. is a confidential program, teens that are untrusting of adults have a safe place to talk about issues that would otherwise remain internalized. While more serious situations such as physical/ sexual abuse and suicidal ideation are referred by Teen C.A.R.E. to school administration and or SBBH, we are often the only people these students will initially trust. I have personally had several experiences with teens actively contemplating suicide that initially refused to talk to anyone but me. However, as a result of my unique position as a substance abuse counselor, I was able to ease these students' anxieties and facilitate referrals to more qualified staff thereby averting the loss of life.

You have in your possession a letter written by one of my former clients. This young lady was referred to an inpatient program after approximately 14 weeks of treatment in Teen C.A.R.E. At the time she was engaging in sexual risk taking behaviors often with older male predators. Already involved with marijuana and alcohol, she began experimenting with crack cocaine, XTC and various other unknown substances. Yet she was always very upfront and honest with me.

One Monday, she arrived at school bruised and complaining of internal pain. She reported having used multiple illegal substances and hitchhiking from a party after being raped by two unknown young adult males. She was then picked up by an intoxicated

female who subsequently crashed into a tree. My client proceeded to hitchhike to her home arriving at approximately 3 AM. She crawled through a window and went to sleep.

After, obtaining the client's consent, I called her mother who immediately took her to the hospital and filed a police report. A few days later I arranged a family counseling session with the client and her mother who had known all along that something was wrong but was oblivious to the details. The end result was that the client was placed in the program from which she wrote the letter you now have in hand.

I have several similar stories. Many of my co-workers have even more. Even so, the current number of teens entering substance abusing lifestyles that will eventually lead to incarceration and or death is legion. Yet, attempts at expanding substance abuse treatment services for youth on Kauai have been repeatedly impeded by a public that remains ignorant and or uncaring in regard to the severity of the problem.

In my opinion, we need more drug prevention programs at the elementary school level, more community based aftercare programs, expanded school based level one treatment services in our middle and high Schools as well as level 2 Intensive Out Patient and Level 3 Inpatient programs on all outer islands.

Finally, my personal involvement with transitional housing and the Life Time Stand program at the Kauai Community Correctional Center has afforded me the opportunity to question inmates in regard to the history of onset of their substance abuse. Almost invariably, these inmates report having begun the path of substance abuse and criminality between the ages of 11 and 14. The importance of addressing the issue of expanded substance abuse treatment services for Hawaii's youth is obvious. Not only is it morally responsible to appropriate funds for this cause, it is also fiscally responsible. Many of the youth we ignore today will ultimately become the adults we need to house in the prisons of tomorrow. As I see it, in the end we have two choices: pay now or pay later.

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

**testimony**

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**From:** Seidenberg, Shana [shana.seidenberg@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 11:41 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** bill SB 2403 and bill HB 2556

**L A T E**

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Representative Takumi:

Aloha nui! We are a small group here on Kaua'i which meets weekly for a dual diagnosis group at the Kauai Community Mental Health Center. In the group we discuss current events that pertain to addiction resources on Kauai and in the state. As people in recovery, we have had experiences with the limited resources for addiction and recovery on Kauai. We support bill SB 2403 and bill HB 2556. We care about the youth of Kauai and we want a therapeutic living program on island. We hope you will vote in favor of these bills.

Mahalo,

Dual Diagnosis Group of Kauai Community Mental Health Center

*Shana Seidenberg, MSW, LSW*

**MISA Coordinator (Mental Illness Substance Abuse)**

**Kauai Community Mental Health Center**

**3-3212 Kuhio Highway**

**Lihue, Hawaii 96766**

**I move back and forth between the admin and the clinic side, so try both numbers if you need to reach me!**

**Phone Administrative side: (808) 241-3130**

**Fax Administrative side: (808) 241-3133**

**Phone Clinic side: (808) 274-3190**

**Fax Clinic side: (808) 274-3194**

**E-mail: shana.seidenberg@doh.hawaii.gov**

**testimony****L A T E****From:** Phillip\_Schmidt/BALDWIN/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 12:04 PM**To:** testimony

Aloha,

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

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

I support SB 2403:

Testimony:

This last year I have seen an increase in gang related communication here on campus. Along with this development have been evidence of drug use. I was recently shocked to find the slogan for the Crips typed onto a graphic picture and stored on a computer I use to teach. The student responsible was later suspended (other actions not this one) and since left our school. Since that time we have seen a reduction in the behaviors and violence on campus. These students require help that classroom teachers are not trained, nor have the time, to provide.

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.

Mahalo  
Phillip Schmidt 2-6-08