

**Hepatitis Prevention & Support Network of Hawai'i  
Prisoner Reintegration and Family Reunification Program**

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February 27, 2009

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair

Friday, February 27, 2009

12:00 pm.

Conference room 308

HB 358, SD1

RELATING TO DRUG TREATMENT

**SUPPORT**

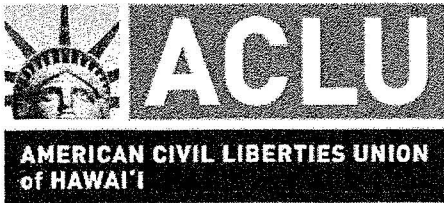
My name is Andy Botts, Director of The Hepatitis Network's Prisoner Reintegration Program, and author of *Nightmare In Bangkok*. As a former heroin addict, I know that relapse is an ever present danger for life, and I support all alternatives to prison for offenders with substance abuse issues.

Drug addiction is in a category that's hard to define or comprehend. It isn't criminal, nor is it a contagious disease. However, it seems to be one, the other, or both. Drug addicts are stuck in a cycle of delusion. Similar to temporary insanity, there is simply no logic to their actions. They'll do anything to get drugs. Most addicts commit crimes to feed their habit – crimes that stop when they become sober.

Once you're hooked, it's next to impossible to stop. "Once an addict, always an addict," isn't a cliché, it's a fact. The mind is a computer. All habits are programs permanently stored in the memory. All it takes is a taste, and the habit is recalled. "Just once won't hurt," is a typical rationalization that triggers the recall button. Once leads to twice, and then they're hooked again. It's similar to a cigarette smoker who quits smoking for ten years. All it takes is one cigarette, and they're hooked again.

Sobriety is a lifelong course, and a desire to change is merely the first hurdle. On the road to recovery, the average addict relapses three times. Three relapses are three-strikes for many addicts. I'm coined a "three-time loser," but I refuse to buy the program. If we convince people to believe that they're losers, then we create losers. A baseball coach doesn't teach his players to strike-out; he encourages them to hit homeruns. Everybody remembers Babe Ruth for his homeruns. A little known fact is that he holds the record for the most strike-outs. It's the same with drug addicts or anybody for that matter. When they have incentives, encouragement, and love, they hit homeruns.

The cost savings of sobriety is enormous, and we can't afford to turn a blind eye to what we don't understand. I strongly support this bill, and encourage expansion of structured non-prison environments for offenders with substance abuse issues. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter.



Via Web

Committee: Committee on Finance

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 27, 2009, 12:00 p.m.

Place: Room 308

Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B. 358, HD1, Relating to Drug Treatment

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in strong support of H.B. 358, HD1, which authorizes placement of certain offenders in secure drug treatment facilities.

The ACLU of Hawaii supports every effort to develop diversion programs and health-based solutions to individuals with drug addictions. In general, these types of programs are far more cost-effective – and far more effective at reducing recidivism – than incarceration and deserve the Legislature's full support.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801  
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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** Rep. Rida Cabanilla  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2009 7:14 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** TestimonyHB358FinRahman

House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 27, 2009 at 10:00 am  
In Support of HB 358- Relating to Drug Treatment

Aloha Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and members of Finance committee

I am Dr. Inam Rahman, I have been practicing in Hawaii as a private medical doctor for the last 15 years. It is an honor for me to testify in behalf of HB 358 regarding secure treatment facility for certain drug abuse offenders. I strongly believe that this bill is very much needed, especially for repeat offenders who fail treatment and rehab programs because they continuously keep getting exposure to same vulnerable drug abuse environment.

I also believe that this bill is extremely important for teenage girls who fail the treatment because they have nowhere to go and have no money and don't see any options except to be used by drug pushers and "pimps". The passage of this bill will ensure protection of our citizens, our families, and our children.

This bill is not asking for additional funding. It ask for re-allocation of current funds.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify in behalf of HB 358

Dr. Inam Rahman  
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**FINTestimony**

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**From:** Rep. Rida Cabanilla  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2009 7:18 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** TestimonyHB358Patrick

House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 27, 2007 at 10:00 am CR 308  
In Support of HB 358-Relating to Drug Treatment

Aloha Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and members of Finance committee

I, Patrick Koh support HB 358 as it provides for a viable alternative to incarceration for dependents who do not pose a serious threat to society and who are willing to be rehabilitated. Every effort to develop health based solutions in reducing repeat offenders deserves the Legislature's full support. When a drug dependent individual is exposed to the same drug abuse environment during rehabilitation is subjecting them to vulnerability and will deter the recovery resulting in failure of the drug treatment. A secured drug treatment facility will create an environment conducive to recovery.

Patrick Koh  
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