

# HB 358, HD1

**Measure Title:**

RELATING TO DRUG TREATMENT

**Report Title:**

Drug Court; Secure Treatment Facilities

**Description:**

Authorizes placement of certain offenders in secure drug treatment facilities. (HB358 HD1)

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 1:30 PM CR – 229  
In Support of HB 358– Relating to Drug Treatment

Aloha Chair Willie Espero, Vice Chair Robert Bunda and members of Public Safety and Military Affairs committee.

I am Dr. Inam Rahman, a medical doctor practicing in Hawaii for 15 years.

I support and agree with the intent of HB 358.

The provision of this bill to develop programs and health based solutions to drug abuse offender especially in providing a secured treatment facility is extremely important in the success of rehabilitating repeat drug abuse offenders. In the traditional method, exposure to same vulnerable drug abuse environment while on rehab will make drug rehab patients susceptible to continue their dependency on drugs, but a secured drug treatment facility will create an environment conducive to recovery.

The passage of this bill will not only reduce recidivism and cost in the treatment plan but most importantly will ensure protection of our citizens, our families, our children and the community at large by providing a secured drug treatment facility.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

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House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 1:30 am CR 229  
In Support of HB 358-Relating to Drug Treatment

Aloha Chair Willie Espero, Vice Chair Robert Bunda and members of Public Safety and Military Affairs 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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Testimony

Netra Halperin, individual

HB358

PSM, March 19, 2009

Rm 229 - 1:30 pm

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and members of the  
Committee.

I felt compelled to come and testify in front of your committee this afternoon. As a social worker, I have seen first-hand that drug and alcohol abuse is now at epidemic proportions. I am aware that the State of Hawaii has invested a lot of resources in curing this epidemic and am grateful for that; however I feel that we need consider all options for treatment. Hawaii has a severe lack of in-patient drug treatment facilities. For many drug users, outpatient psychotherapy or 12 step programs aren't enough. I think it is important for the State to use all possible resources.

I am aware of a facility in New Mexico, Second Chance Program, which has agreed to take care of Hawaii residents for approximately \$55. /day. This includes room, board and their very successful treatment program. This is less than what it costs to house an inmate at Haleiwa prison. Many of Hawaii's

prisoners have drug and alcohol addictions. The US has the highest per-capita of incarcerated citizens. 80% of female and 60% of male inmates have been jailed for non-violent drug-related crime. Drug addiction is primarily a public health issue - only because it hasn't been properly treated has it become a judicial issue. By treating the addiction directly, it not only helps these individuals stay clean and sober, but keeps them from committing crime. This then further benefits the rest of society.

This bill is not asking for additional funding, only creative allocation of existing funds already appropriated for drug abuse treatment. Thank you for allowing me testify on this important topic.