

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony

Netra Halperin, individual

Public Safety

January 29th 8:30 am

HB358

Chair Honohono and members of the Committee.

I felt compelled to come and testify in front of your committee this morning. As a social worker, I can see first-hand that the drug and alcohol abuse epidemic proliferates in our society. 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 treatment isn't comprehensive 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 addiction problems. By treating the addiction directly, it not only helps the individual 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

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treatment. Thank you for allowing me testify on this important topic.

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Chair Honohono and members of the Committee.

I am Dr. Inam Rahman, I have been practicing in Hawaii as a private practicing medical doctor for the last 15 years. It is an honor for me to testify in behalf of H.B. 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 358 is extremely important for teenage girls who fail the treatment because they have no where 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.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify in behalf of H.B. 358.

Dr. Inam Rahman

Medical Director, CEO, Doctors Inc.

1441 Kapiolani Blvd-Suite 2003

Honolulu, Hi 96814

808-945-3636

808-387-6560 cell

inamr@msn.com

