



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1623
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
Hearing Date: 2/8/2022 Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department defers to the Department of Public Safety on the
3 implementation of this measure but offers the following comments and offers amendments.

4 First, the term “substance use disorder (SUD) services clinic” is not defined, so the bill is unclear
5 on what other controlled substances are at issue besides methadone. SUD clinics cannot
6 prescribe nor dispense methadone (a Schedule II drug). Only Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP)
7 do, since they have a physician. Outpatient SUD clinics typically include suboxone (a Schedule
8 III drug because it contains buprenorphine and the life-saving drug naloxone) in an SUD client’s
9 treatment plan, then refers them to their physician. The physician prescribes, and the client gets it
10 from the pharmacy.

11 Second, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division is working with the Med-QUEST Division to
12 expand Medication Assisted Treatment options for those with opioid use disorders, which
13 includes the use of buprenorphine and suboxone. According to the National Survey on Drug Use
14 and Health, over 23,000 Hawaii adults statewide need but are not receiving treatment for illicit
15 drug use disorders that includes use of marijuana, cocaine and heroin. There are [over 150 Hawaii](#)
16 [practitioners with an approved federal waiver to provide buprenorphine](#) to treat opioid use
17 disorders. The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or [SAMHSA](#)
18 [encourages practitioners to apply for a buprenorphine waiver](#).

1 **Offered Amendments:** First, please strike “substance use disorder services
2 clinic” throughout the bill because the term is not defined, unless clarification is given on
3 what other controlled substances besides methadone are at issue.

4 Second, if this measure becomes law, and if SUD clinics are included, we request an amendment
5 to grandfather existing methadone clinics and SUD services clinics in the following Sections:

6 Section 1, page 3, paragraph (6):

7 (6) The clinic will be located at least seven hundred
8 fifty feet away from any real property comprising a
9 protected area, provided that this section shall not
10 apply to any methadone clinic or substance use
11 disorder clinic that maintains centralized ordering,
12 storage, and record keeping of controlled substances
13 and that is registered with the department as of one
14 year from the effective date of this Act.

15 Section 2, page 7, paragraph (i):

16 (i) No registration shall be issued or renewed under this
17 section to any person, applicant, or registrant, and no
18 registration shall be waived under subsection (d) for any person
19 or applicant, for a methadone clinic or substance use disorder
20 services clinic if the clinic is within seven hundred fifty feet
21 of a protected area, as defined in section 712-1249.6, provided
22 that this section shall not apply to any methadone clinic or
23 substance use disorder clinic that is registered with the
24 department as of one year from the effective date of this Act.”

25 Section 4, page 11, paragraph (5):

26 (5) Is a registrant for a methadone clinic or substance
27 use disorder services clinic that has located or
28 relocated within seven hundred fifty feet of a

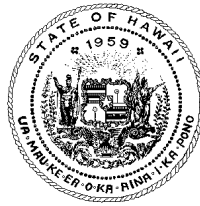
1 protected area, as defined in section 712-1249.6,
2 provided that this Act shall not apply to any
3 methadone clinic or substance use disorder clinic that
4 is registered with the department as of one year from
5 the effective date of this Act."

6 **Section 8:**

7 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
8 provided that this Act shall not apply to any methadone clinic,
9 substance use disorder clinic or any organization or person who
10 was registered with the department as of one year from the
11 effective date of this Act as a clinic under section 329-31.5,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, or registered to manufacture,
13 distribute, prescribe, dispense, or conduct reverse distribution
14 with any controlled substance at a methadone clinic or substance
15 use disorder services clinic [~~prior to the effective date of~~
16 ~~this Act shall have one year from the effective date of this Act~~
17 ~~to comply with this Act]~~.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
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Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1623
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

By
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 8, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
Via Teleconference

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly opposes House Bill (HB) 1623, which: 1) expands the prohibition on promoting a controlled substance in, on, or near schools, school vehicles, public parks, and public housing projects or complexes to include group child care centers, group child care homes, public recreation centers, and youth services centers, collectively as protected areas, 2) requires the registration and registration renewal of methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics as clinics and for handling controlled substances to be contingent upon location at least 750 feet away from protected areas, and 3) gives methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics one year from the effective date of this Act to comply with this Act. PSD strongly opposes this measure for several important reasons and respectfully requests that the committee hold this measure.

First, under HB 1623, the Bill as proposed seems to prohibit under Section 1 (a) any and all clinics from being less than 750 feet from a protected area. This would mean that other clinics such as dental clinics, veterinary clinics, and other healthcare "clinics" would be affected by this measure.

Second, under HB 1623, PSD would be prohibited from both issuing a new controlled substance registration and renewing a current controlled substances registration if a “protected area” were to either currently exist, or suddenly develop within 750 feet from a methadone clinic or a substance use disorder treatment clinic.

On Oahu, there are only two currently operating opioid treatment programs (i.e., “methadone clinics”) and a third program is about to open. One of those programs would be immediately affected by HB 1623 if it were to pass into law. None of those businesses can operate if they cannot obtain a Hawaii controlled substances registration from PSD. Consequently, If this bill were to pass into law, that would mean that within one year, a currently existing clinic in Downtown Honolulu would have to relocate or close. Moreover, if that clinic were not able to relocate because of finances or other business conditions, it would mean that the hundreds of vulnerable patients served by that treatment program would be displaced.

Third, HB 1623 places every opioid treatment program and possibly, all substances use disorder services clinics at risk of disruption, either upon passage of this bill, or in the future, if a business were to develop within 750 feet of them, thereby creating a “protected area.” The current Oahu opioid treatment programs have been in business at their current locations for decades. Their business futures and those programs on the neighbor islands, would become entirely vulnerable to any development of businesses, such as child care, and child related businesses that may develop within 750 feet of them in the future. PSD also notes that there is a third opioid treatment program that is about to open in Downtown Honolulu at a time where there are currently no restrictions, as proposed under HB 1623. The owner of that business has invested money, time, and efforts to build her business and comply with the many state and federal laws involved in opening an opioid treatment program. That business has also taken more than a year to develop. Consequently, if any opioid treatment program were forced to relocate because of the impacts of HB 1623, they cannot simply move somewhere else and quickly open shop again. Again, that would mean that the hundreds of patients served by those programs would be displaced.

Finally, PSD also notes that HB 1623 would also restrict the issuance and renewals of controlled substances registrations for “substance use disorder services clinics”. The term, “substance use disorder services clinics” is not defined in HB 1623. In Hawaii, there are many practitioners who are authorized and specially certified by the federal government to treat substance use disorders. The treatment of substance use disorders does not only involve methadone, and may involve other medications such as buprenorphine, naloxone, and others. Moreover, substance use disorder services is a broad term that also applies to mental health treatment and even treatment in an emergency department. If HB 1623 was meant to also apply to these types of healthcare practices, then PSD respectfully submits that the vulnerability and impacts to these types of healthcare practices would dramatically increase the impacts to patients in need of substance use treatment. Often, these types of substance use disorder services clinics are located in dense commercial office buildings and business areas. If a new child related business were to sprout up next to them and create a “protected area”, they would become immediately unstable and vulnerable to HB 1623.

HB 1623 places the very small number of opioid treatment programs under a great deal of vulnerability. Moreover, HB 1623 could broadly apply to an even greater number of substance use services clinics. If a business, especially one of the two current programs was to close, hundreds of patients undergoing closely supervised treatment would be displaced and at risk for overdose and return to addiction. The Department believes that would be a catastrophe for Hawaii.

For these reasons, PSD respectfully urges the committee to hold HB 1623.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:27:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Ferguson	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Mark Ferguson and I am a resident of Habilitat Inc. I am opposing this Bill which will affect Habilitat Inc. and all the residents who they are helping to change their life. This facility does not have controlled substances which means Habilitat Inc. does not fit into this Bill.

Habilitat Inc. has been around for 51 years and helped so many people change their life and become productive members of their communities.

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Becky Harrison
Habilitat
(808) 221-8550

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Opposition to HB1623

For over 50 years, Habilitat has been helping people overcome problems with substance abuse and homelessness. Our success rate is one of the highest in the United States. We help people who have lost hope change into hardworking, responsible, caring human beings who are a benefit to society. We do this by showing participants how to develop self-esteem, self-worth and self-discipline. Our unique approach incorporates modern evidence-based treatments including cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, individualized treatment planning, group sessions, education, curriculum-based work force development programs, computer training, literacy programs, parenting classes, and many more wraparound services designed to teach people to become the best version of themselves possible. We truly empower people to live beyond their addictions and learn to make positive choices in their lives. Our program is designed to get to the root cause of substance use, then teach people how to thrive in a complicated world. Our vocational programs are designed to provide real life skills so that participants can attain gainful employment, at a living wage, in high demand fields. Habilitat is a self-supporting non-profit organization.

I am testifying in opposition to HB1623. Habilitat is a Substance Use Disorder Services Clinic and therefore would be affected by this bill. We do not stock, maintain, or dispense any controlled substances at Habilitat. In fact, controlled substances are not allowed on our facility. We are located next to a public park, Nāoneala`a A Kāne`ohe. We have helped clean and maintain this park for many years. In fact, during the parks dedication ceremony last year, The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club expressed their gratitude to Habilitat for contributing to our neighborhood and being an asset to the community. Habilitat has worked with Hawaii's schools and youth groups for many years and has helped them raise over 1 million dollars with our Christmas tree fundraising.

Again, I am opposing HB1623. Habilitat does not have any controlled substances on the property. Habilitat helps our community, parks, schools and youth groups. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HB1623 Controlled Substances Prohibition for Access to Care

[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS](#)

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Feb 8 2022: 9:00 am : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Opposes HB1623 as is but offers Amendments:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

Recommendation:

1. **Remove Substance Use Disorder (SUD) clinics because they don't store or dispense controlled substances:**
 - a. SUD clinics cannot prescribe nor dispense Methadone, a Schedule II drug.
 - b. Only Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) can prescribe and distribute methadone.
 - c. SUD do not store, handle, or dispense controlled substances. Clients in residential settings (not outpatient) have some patients who have their own prescription drugs that they self-administer.
 - d. SUD clinics can not prescribe, nor dispense Suboxone, a Schedule III drug, that is a medication treatment for opioids misuse that is prescribed by physicians under a special medication licensure. Suboxone is needed to help people with opioid misuse and has low to moderate physical dependence because it includes both naloxone as well as buprenorphine. Other Schedule III drugs are codeine, hydrocodone with aspirin or hydrocodone with Tylenol and certain barbiturates.
 - e. While very few SUD outpatient clinics have a doctor to prescribe suboxone, none store it because pharmacists dispense suboxone directly to the patient based on a prescription.
 - f. The Federal government, in tangent with the Department of Health, goals are to have every physician office in the state prescribing suboxone or any other new medications that come along. A physician may prescribe, but a pharmacist fills the order from there stores.
 - g. Since community health clinics, mental health clinics, all physician offices can prescribe, there is no need to single out substance use disorder clinics because they have no licensure to store nor provide methadone nor do they do so for suboxone.

2. Recommend grandfathering in the two existing Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) in the state and if problems arise, work with the clinic to resolve problems.

- a. OTP needs a special license from the state and they are the only ones who can prescribe, store and dispense methadone, a Schedule II drug.
- b. There are only two agencies in the state that are OTP: Champ Clinic and Ku Aloha Ola Mau.
- c. The main distribution clinics for the two OTP agencies have been in their location for at least 30 years.
- d. People who come for methadone doses are people who are in recovery or in the pursuit of recovery. Remember that ADA has determined that people in recovery are included in disability definitions.
- e. Keep in mind that people with addiction not in recovery have no restrictions and can go near protected areas. Opioid medication is legal while heroin and most forms of fentanyl are illegal.
- f. OTPs are essential to the community to help mitigate the opioid epidemic. Let's work with them to resolve problems that keep our children safe and still provide recovery opportunities to people with opioid problems.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and can answer any questions.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:42:48 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cameron Hughes	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think this bill should not be passed! Because Habilitat has given me a brighter future. Before Habilitat I had never seen a future for myself, besides prison and death. Now all I see is a successful future. Since I've been at Habilitat I have rebuilt bonds with my family and found myself. With that being said I am forever grateful for treatment facilities.

Please don't pass the bill!

Mahalo,

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:47:06 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
preston pacleb-timbol	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of a substance abuse facility that is located close to a park I will be affected by the passing of this Bill. I understand the concern and yes I am a father and I would hate if there were drugs near a school or park. I feel that not all facilities should be affected by this bill. Here at Habilitat we do not house any residents that need to take any types of psychotropic medication and no one is allowed to be here with any drugs at all. If this Bill gets passed you will be removing over 100 residents that are in the process of changing their lives. This Bill is not entirely wrong and I believe that with a few modifications it may be something that I would support. If the facility in question has drugs on it then what good is the facility anyway. No mental health facilities, sex offense rehabilitation, or any facilities that dispense any narcotics should be allowed near any school or park. Habilitat is a facility that does not house sexual offenders, or people who deal with mental health issues. We do not even allow any narcotics on the facility. This Bill in its current state would not be beneficial to or society. Please note that there should never be any drugs, sex offenders, or mental health patients allowed near schools or parks. Any rehab that does not deal with these things should be allowed to stay where they are.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:52:41 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alberto Garcia	Habilitat, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of habilitat i oppose this bill. Habilitat is a behavior modification program that is helping me change my life , it has been helping people change their lifes for over fifty years they have been helping give back to the community. they are helping me become a law abiding citizen and to learn to be a productive member of society. i am literally fight for my life to take habilitat away you would be condeming people now and in the future to death and prison our society would be bad with out places to help people change.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:59:11 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenneth Starnes	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi,

My name is Kenneth and I am a resident of Habilitat, located in Kaneohe. This is a reoccurring theme in my life, going through treatment programs and I have been going through this cycle since I was 12 years old and I am 46 now. That's over 30 years of turmoil, of ups and downs doing my best to get my life in order and I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that I have come to terms with myself by learning a new way to think and a new way to believe in myself. I have been here for over 4 years and it is taught to deal with your problems head-on instead of using narcotics or any mind-altering substance to escape from the day-to-day life problems.

In the continental Us, there are numerous programs that do their best to help people with drug and alcohol problems, but we are not on the mainland, we are in Hawaii. Here there are very few places for a person to get help and now this bill that has been introduced has the potential to close programs' doors. Why would the Legislators and senators want to deny the people of this state the opportunity to change their lives? To shut the doors in people's faces when they are only trying to live life to the fullest.

With the help of these few programs here in Hawaii some people can change their life for the better, get a new outlook on life, and become law-abiding taxpayers. As for me, with the help of Habilitat, I no longer wanna be the person that I was, looking only at death and wondering when death would knock at my door, and that's thanks to Habilitat for teaching me a new way to live my life.

Kenneth Starnes

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:11:23 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adelina Bass	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a young person who has Habilitat to thank for saving my own life. If it weren't for Habilitat I would still be homeless or incarcerated. Habilitat has helped me see a better way to live. Today I feel empowered to make the right decisions for not only myself but for my family and whoever else's life, my drug addiction affected. I can see why Habilitat has a success rate over twice the national average. I strongly feel Habilitat will continue to save lives in our community, and do so with a caring heart for many years to come. Habilitat also reaches their hand to the general community often. They have taught me to care for my community through volunteer work or anything that is beneficial in general. I love Habilitat.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:11:58 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marina Reyes	Habilitat, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marina and I am a 27 month resident at Habilitat. It has erecently been brought to my attention that this bill would jeopardize the location of several substance abuse treatment centers.

Habilitat for one should be exempt from this petition because we do not use physcotropic drugs in out treatment methods. We are a behavioral modifacation center. Further more, Kaneohe Beach Park has been upkept by Habilitat residents over the years.

Although I do agree that a methadone clinic should not be located near a school or place where children play. I feel that it is an entirely different case when it comes to people who are completely sober and residing in a structured environment.

Not only would this affect Habilitat, which has been here saving lives and helping the community for over fifty years, it will also affect other programs such as Womens Way a safe haven where mother can go with their children to change their lives.

Please take into consderation the amount of people this will have an impact on, as well as the fact that removing treatment centers that get people off of drugs wont decrease the amount of drug use in the area, in fact it would likely be the oppisit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Marina Reyes

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:35:07 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stefani Lakes	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because not all treatment types are the same. Facilities such as Habilitat have been around for many years Habilitat itself has been around for 50 years now, and is a huge part of our community. We do not even keep controlled substances on the property! It makes no sense to have this program, or any like it, register as a clinic. Bills like this one are targeting a specific place and will have repercussions on many others. Habilitat saved my life, and the lives of countless others. If this bill passes, Habilitat would have to register as something it is not, and it would be forced to relocate after being in the same place for 50 years. Not to mention the many other places on this island that would probably just end up shutting down their facilities because of the demanded move. Habilitat alone has a 63% success rate, and the impact that has on the community is invaluable. Without programs on this island, the substance abuse rates would continue to rise as would the recitivism rates and drug related crime rates on the island. Oahu already struggles with the homeless and drug addicted populations, and this bill will have a HUGE negative impact on the only places on the island that are fighting to help save those lives. If your fight is with methadone clinic, take it up with a methadone clinic. Don't force other programs to register as something they are not, or force them to move their facility which would probably shut most programs down completely. Allow places like Habilitat to continue to save the lives of your friends, family and coworkers who struggle with substance abuse. Allow us to continue to save your communities. Allow us to be around with your children need us, when your grandchildren need us.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:46:30 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sean Manwell	Habilitat, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

I appose this bill because Habilitat is a non medical facility and we are not really a drug treatment program we are a behavior modification program and we've been here for 51 years changing lives for the better. Habilitat has saved numerous amounts of people to become better people for themselves and outstanding members of the community. Habilitat is not a methadone clinic and in fact is against anything to do with methadone treatment.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:47:44 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Seres Kincho	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because habilitat is a non methadone program, It is a behavior modification program. we've been here for 51 years and has changed many peoples lifes. I think relocating the program will only increase number of people in jail, on the streets and crimes. I am a resident here for 33 months i came here when i was 19 years old, now im 21 and this is more than just a program it is more like my home i could've gradaute 3 months ago but i chose to stay on another year because it had turned my life around, it had gave me hope for my future. I asked that you allow us to continue saving other peoples life here in kaneohe bay. Thank you for your time and consideration during this matter.

Sincerely:

seres kincho

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:52:41 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Makoa Kahuna-Keliikoa	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

I makoa kekahuna-keliikoa have been here 21 months and this is not a methadone clinic and this is a home where a lot of people get help and build back broken relationships. habilitat is a place where people can learn a lot of new skills that will help them when they leave Habilitat for a better future and life. We do not dispense any meds and should not be grouped in with this bill.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:27:14 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Ferreira	Habilitat, In.	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a staff member at Habilitat. I came in as a resident over 37 years ago and have been employed there for 35 years. We reside next to a public park and have never had any incidents. We are not a clinic that provides drugs and do not dispense drugs or store them on our facility. We do not give our residents drugs or alcohol as part of their treatment. Our goal is to save lives, not destroy them. We help people to become productive drug and alcohol free citizens. If the bill is passed we would be forced to relocate our facility. We do not agree with distributing drugs near or next to where children are located, this is not what we do. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:55:48 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Desmond Catchapiro	Habilitat, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe that passing this bill goes against our mission on helping substance abuse. Habilitat has been around for 51 years and has helped a lot of people just like me. We are a self sufficient program, that focuses on behavior modification. We are not a methadone clinic,for we do not hold or dispense any narcotics to help treat substance abuse. i oppose this bill and strongly suggest that the bill should be edited to better target methadone clinics throughout hawaii and not all treatment programs.Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:36:05 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Iturio	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat is a behavior-based program we do not give out methadone. We should not register as a methadone clinic. That is false. I have been a resident here for 17 months and we should not be included in this bill. If this bill passes we will have to relocate because we are right next to a park. It will force substance abuse programs to shut down because there are not enough resources on the Island.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:40:41 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacob Mata	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat is not a methadone clinic and we should not be considered as such. We are a behavioral modification program that has helped thousands of people change their lives from addicts to contributing members of this society. If this bill passes it will force us to move from our location that we have been at for more than 50 years. If it wasn't for this place I would be stuck in a cycle of crime, violence, and prison. This place has helped me find a new way of life and will continue to help many more if you don't pass this bill.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:52:53 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hardy Gabriel	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

my name is hardy gabriel and im at habilitat i have been in this programe for 18 months and honestly habilitat is not a methadone clinic. This place has helped me save my life and helped me bulid my realationship back with my family. Also it has helped me to stand on my own two feet and be a man and not to depend on my mom and dad. Im only 20 years old and i'm learning a lot about myself and that's because of habilitat. So if you guys do this it will hinder me and many other people from achieving our common goal which is to change our lives. At the end of the day I want to be a contributing member of this society and if this bill passes it will force me to return to my old behavior.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:57:40 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nick Vanin	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat is not a medical facility and does not dispense methadone. Habilitat has also saved thousand of lives including my own. The passing of this bill would create multiple problems for thousands of people that are trying to change their lives now and in the future. This would effect multiple programs including Hablilitat. The city and county does not have the resources to fix the butterfly effect this bill will cause. Hawaii already has a homeless problem and this bill would make it WORSE!! Habilitat and many other programs give thousands of people a fighting chance to become successfull members of society. I 100% oppose this bill. You will be part of the problem instead of the solution. Habilitat has also been changing lives for over 50 years.

My name is Nicholas Vanin and Habilitat has changed my life. I have been a contributing member of socitey for 2 years now thanks to Habilitat. They gave me a chance. Do not pass this bill for the aloha of Hawaii.



To: Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 8th at 9:00 AM

Re: Testimony in Opposition of HB1623

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and members of the committee

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) respectfully opposes HB 1623 as currently drafted. HHHRC appreciates the intent of the measure and understands the community concerns that accompany treating substance use disorders in certain geographical areas. HHHRC would appreciate the opportunity to be involved in discussion of potential strategies to accomplish the intent of this measure without impacting behavioral health providers ability to deliver services. For example, HHHRC employs a “peer security greeter” that develops relationships with people accessing services to mitigate impact on surrounding offices and services. HHHRC also conducts regular outreach in around the adjacent areas to ensure our participants have not wandered onto others’ property and to help reinforce boundaries with visitors to our clinic.

The US Surgeon General has identified stigma as one of the biggest barriers to assessment and treatment of substance use disorder (SUD). Measures such as HB 1623 would not only perpetuate the stigma for those ready, willing and able to access SUD treatment, but will make access more difficult, especially in congested areas that may have no options more than 750 feet away from protected areas.

HHHRC’s mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:51:01 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ericmichael Kane	Habilitat Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of Habilitat I strongly oppose this bill. Habilitat has been located nextdoor to Kaneohe beach park for nearly half a century and there has been no problem. Not only has Habilitat saved mny life, but it has also saved my mothers as well. Without Habilitat who knows where I would be. To pass this bill would mean heartache for the residents here, their families, and future residents to come. Please take heed to everyones testimony and reconsider.

Mahlo,

Ericmichael Makoa Kane

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:19:44 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kyle Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness (houselessness)

Kyle E Johnson

808-931-9404

February 8, 2022

I am writing a testimony to oppose HB1623, relating to controlled substances.

My name is Kyle Johnson and I am a graduate of Habilitat, Inc which I attended from 2006-2009. I am opposing HB1623 as written as it groups all substance use treatment facilities under one umbrella but they are not all created equally. Habilitat, Inc follows a behavioral modification model which does not believe in, nor use any controlled or uncontrolled substance to minimize or help treat substance use disorder. During my two-and-a-half year stay at Habilitat, Inc., I watched many residents withdraw from controlled substances cold turkey, and I watched people get injured and receive only non-controlled substances for pain management.

Habilitat, Inc. should not be grouped in with other substance use treatments centers because it follows a different philosophy than others - and by grouping it in the same category shows ignorance of the services available to addicts in Hawai'i.

I urge you to oppose HB1623 as written, and I encourage you to consider visiting with and researching substance use treatment centers, their practices, and use of controlled substances in order to properly group facilities so that only those who have controlled substances on property will be affected by this lay.

Mahalo for your time,

Kyle Johnson

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:28:34 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tate Shambo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat Inc. isn't like other programs. We don't accept any government funding, we don't take any insurance money, and we do not distribute any controlled substances. By forcing us to also sign up, you are not only classifying what it is we actually do but also forced to vacate our property, which we have been at for over 50 years. I understand and believe that any organization that distributes a controlled substance like methadone should not be allowed to coexist near a park or school because I know what kind of danger that brings being an opium addict myself. And while I agree that operations like these should not be allowed to be located near a school or park, we are not like these organizations. We believe in one rule here, to grow up. That we do not need any form of mind-altering substance. And because of this, I oppose this bill. I have been to other rehabs throughout California, this place is unlike anywhere else. We do nothing but benefit the community around us, directly and indirectly. We are not a methadone clinic.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:47:41 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jackie-Lou Malong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat is a behavioral modification program and is by kaneohe beach park. It does not use controlled substances; therefore should not be included in this bill. Hawaii has limited resources for programs that help people. This bill would cause alot of programs to shut down which would put alot of lives at risk.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:42:38 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kylen kahele aku	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

my name is kylen kahele-aku and i feel if this bill goes through alot of people will lose the opportunity to change thier life and the chance to get back to what they are fighting for. habilitat has been here for 50 years changing so many lives throughout the years

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:30:46 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daniel petrone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Daniel Petrone and I am a resident at habilitat. This program has given me an opportunity to change my life. Habilitat has no controlled substances or psychotropics on the facility. This is a long-term program with a proven history of changing lives.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:31:37 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Noa Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat should not be included in this bill because there is no controled substances on the facility at any time and we dont want to have to move or close down or register as something that we are not. Habilitat only does good for the comunity and does not belong in the same group as methadone clinic.

Aloha,

My name is Milton Miyasato, and I work at AOA Capitol Place. That is a luxury condominium located at 1200 Queen Emma Street. I have been employed here since December of 2019. Throughout my time here I have received numerous anecdotal accounts of incidents and behaviors by clients of the Champ (Methadone) Clinic located in the building next to ours which negatively impacted our residents' lives. Episodes of violent behavior between clients, loitering, trespassing, and even defecating on our grounds were frequent. We also have discovered used syringes in our landscaping and one time in particular, our landscaper had his glove pierced by a needle when he was picking up trash and did not see the syringe until it stabbed his finger. While we do not have conclusive evidence that this needle was left by clients of the clinic, one can surmise that it is a client or at least it is highly probable that it was. At any rate, the location of the clinic does not appear to be the most conducive to providing this, admittedly needed service to these individuals. One of the issues is that it is located right across the street from the Central Middle School and Saint Andrews Priory. Pre-teen students should not have to be exposed to this type of environment where drug addicts receiving maintenance treatment for serious drug addictions are lingering on the sidewalks waiting for their daily dose. It is important to note that this is a maintenance program which means that they are given methadone as an alternative to other opioids. So ultimately, the clients are being administered psychoactive drugs, albeit milder versions but still potentially mind altering.

Ideally a treatment program such as this should be administered in a health care facility like a hospital, but the fiscal realities and controversial treatment modality makes this nearly impossible, so a community-based location is necessary. However, there are still more viable alternative sites to this than the one currently being utilized. A location where there are related programs and services such as shelters, and meal programs that would provide a more comprehensive approach to helping these individuals. A lot of the clients are also homeless or jobless and places such as the Institute for Human Services is in a more industrial location that can support these types of service providers. I understand the current real estate and housing markets are experiencing a robust return for their investments and obtaining a new and reasonable lease rate may be difficult for the clinic, but it is just the reality of our times for all categories of business. I support HB1623 prohibiting the promoting of a controlled substance within 750 feet of a school.

Mahalo,

Milton Miyasato, ARM

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201) 8/27/2020

Activity Details: 10-31 Assist off property

Comments: RS 14 [REDACTED] escorted 1 10-31 off property without incident, sleeping near the Methadone Clinic. 10-31 can be described as a male with tan complexion, shirtless. 10-31 also had a pillow and blanket with him.

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201) 8/7/2020

Activity Details: 10-31 Assist off property

Comments: Rs25 [REDACTED], Rs20 [REDACTED] and Rs49 [REDACTED] 10-8 Escorted 1 male 10-31 loitering at the meth clinic.

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201) 9/5/2020

Activity Details: 10-31 Assist off property

Comments: Rs25 [REDACTED], Rs20 [REDACTED] and Rs49 [REDACTED] 10-8 Escorted 1 male 10-31 loitering at the meth clinic.

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201) 12/23/2020

Activity Details: 10.5 BODILY INJURY

Comments: ASSIGNMENT/ARRIVAL: At approximately 1010 HRS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] called front desk notifying a 10-31 fell out of his wheelchair while going up a small ramp on Pali Honda Service Entry

OBSERVATIONS/ARRIVAL: Upon arrival I RS47 [REDACTED] and RS24 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] found. 10-31 'J [REDACTED] G [REDACTED]' a patient from meth clinic on the ground with three bags of his personal belongings, wheelchair on its side as well as crutches.

INJURED PERSON'S STATEMENT: [REDACTED] stated he hit his headfirst while trying to wheel himself up and fell backwards. He stated his head was bleeding and his neck, back and shoulders were aching.

REPORTING PERSON'S STATEMENT: RS 47 [REDACTED] and RS24 [REDACTED] called EMS as we found him in a lot of pain and couldn't help him up due to his past injuries.

WITNESS STATEMENT: Honda Customer found him on the ground.

INJURIES: Head injury due to fall and bleeding.

NOTIFICATIONS: N/A MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RENDERED: Yes MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED: Yes

EMS on property 1020 HRS Off property at 1052 HRS

AMBULANCE/DOCTOR: EMS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

INJURED TRANSPORTED: N/A PHOTOS: N/A INSURANCE COMPANY: N/A

NOTICES/WARNING DEVICES: N/A FOOTWEAR/EYE WEAR: N/A

LIGHTING: Good CONDITION OF SURFACE: Concrete DISPOSITION: Transported to Kuakini Hospital

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201) 1/5/2021

Activity Details: 10-31 Assist off property

Comments: 10-8 RS49 and RS45 escort one male 10-31 off of property. 10-31 dumpster diving and hanging out by the clinic

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201) 3/22/2021

Activity Details: 10-31 Assist off property

Comments: RS 25 Escorted 3 Male 10-31's off property. Loitering in corner parking of fire lane near clinic

For: Residential Specialist (ID: 201)

Activity Details: 10-31 Assist off property

Comments: RS 46 [REDACTED] escorted 1 10--31 off property by the stairway of the clinic building



School yard across the street on left. First door on building at right is the methadone clinic.



Meth clients waiting for doors to open.



Methadone clients congregating near clinic.



One methadone client sleeping on sidewalk.



Methadone clinic clients waiting across the Street, right next to school campus fencing.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:19:41 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
david	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i dont think habilitat should be included in this bill because there is no controled substances on the facility

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 7:09:45 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
skyler lloyd	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

my name is skyler and I'm a resident at habilitat..and i oppose this bill because habilitat is saving my life..because of habilitat i now have a future.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:47:53 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joaquin Almanza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat has been saving lives for 51 years, It's behavior modification program DOES NOT include storing or dispensing controlled substances as part of their treatment plan, Saving people from drug addiction and homelessness can only be positive for our communities,

My experience and observation finds that these folks, upon graduation contribute changes to our society that are needed. Their determination to recover brings out qualities that benefit our community. To name a few, they are accepting of others without judgement, they have learned the value of a focused work effort and most important, how a strong team/family can be for all.

I oppose HB 1623. It would be detrimental to Hawaii.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:41:49 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawika Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To who it may concern,

My name is Kawika Brown and I am a resident at Habilitat and have been for two and a half years. I would like to start off by giving you my reasons for opposing this bill. I have been involved in the system and drug tretment centers since I was twelve years old and have never been to a program like Habilitat. This is one of the hardest, yet best programs in the nation and it is completely substance free. We are a behavioral modification and vocational trianing program. All residents that attend Habilitat are not on any mind or mood altering substance and we do not dispence any medications like methadone. If this bill was to be passed it would mean the relocation of our facility. Habilitat has been a pilar for the community of Kaneohe for 51 years and has helped save countless lives.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:30:55 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reuben Reed	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because we are nothing like the methadone clinic, we are a behavior modification program not a place to have people be dependant on drugs. We are a place of change where we learn how to live life as a productive member of society, not being dependant on any kind of substance while methadone clinics support these habits. Habilitat does not hold nor dispence any kind of narcotics for substance abuse we learn to live without any of that which is totally the opposite of what a methadone clinic do.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:35:43 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Catherine Laumea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

On behalf of an organization called Habilitat, I would like to voice my reasons to a bill that is looking to be passed. I am a young adult here in the state of Hawaii in a rehabilitation program. I've been here for 14 months and counting, We are a non-methadone clinic. Habilitat believes in changing people lives that includes no sort of any narcotics or substances to dispense out to any residents that resides here on the facility. I truly believe that we as Habilitat inc should not be included to the category of methadone clinics. Habilitat's help saved many lives by being a self-sufficient, not depending on any sort of substances. We are a behavior modification program. This program has saved many lives throughout 51 years including mines. Allow my Habilitat family to be apart of a change because all we are known for CHANGE. Habilitat is The Place of Change. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration upon this matter.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:30:51 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimberley Zilisch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of Habilitat I am opposed to passing this bill. I am a mother of 3 kids and this program is saving my life. We do not dispense controlled substances as part of our program so it should not be included in being classified as a methadone clinic. Furthermore making programs register in this bill will cause programs to have to move and shut down and our reasources are limited on the islands.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:54:43 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dr. RaeDeen M. Keahiolalo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 6, 2022

RE: HB1623, Hearing on February 8, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam and Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness,

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to HB1623, a bill that casts an incredibly wide net across existing services that do not fall into the proposed categories but will nonetheless impact them, i.e., treatment centers that do not control, administer or dispense controlled substances, proven services that have existed for many decades that have served the community and demonstrated strong success; and, erases the long-standing efforts of non-profits, communities and individuals who have been dedicated to rehabilitation and community reintegration. In short, this bill contradicts many of our more successful legislation that works to decrease—not increase—barriers to treatment, rehabilitation and community reentry.

In 2008, I received a PhD after completing my dissertation about incarceration politics in Hawaii. My work has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. Prior, I spent 25 years in community and direct services. I continue to engage in various efforts that promote alternatives to incarceration, including rehabilitation and reentry, simply because of the decades of evidence-based data and my own observations that demonstrate much higher success rates than incarceration.

Frankly, I am perplexed by this bill. It appear to not be well thought out and actually seems to be reactionary and uninformed. The ramifications of passing such a bill far outweigh opposition to it.

I oppose HB1623 without reservation and urge the committee to oppose this bill as well.

Mahalo,

RaeDeen M. Keahiolalo, PhD

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:21:21 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nickolas Natividad	Habilitat, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Habilitat is a non-methadone substance abuse program. We are located next to a park and should not be included in registering as a methadone clinic. Furthermore, Habilitat has been here for 50 years and provides behavioral modification to our public. If passed then all programs will be forced to relocate and will cause less options for people to get help with substance abuse and will increase the jail population.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:39:08 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bryson Pau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposing this bill due to the fact that Habilitat, is not categorized as a methadone clinic. I am a 14-month resident within the program and Habilitat, is also not a medical facility for we do not hold or dispense any kind of narcotics for substance abuse treatment. The curriculum that Habilitat teaches is based on behavioral modification and focuses on alternative coping skills to help deal with everyday life challenges. We, as Habilitat are a self-sufficient rehabilitation program that helps people all across the nation, including myself, to become working and dependable members of society while holding family core values to progress a clean and sober life. I, myself, can say that this program has helped me in numerous ways such as providing an extensive vocational training program that I will use for the future that is ahead of me, reconnecting a bond with my family that I managed to break, and providing me a better outlook on life. I will oppose this bill in knowing that Habilitat, as a drug rehabilitation program, is not classified as a methadone clinic and the details of this bill should be edited to better target methadone clinics that are located in Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:50:36 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Ryan	Habilitat	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:34:12 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Passantino	Ke'elikolani Middle School	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB1623. It is mindblowing that our school is directly across the street from a clinic in downtown Honolulu. Our school has been here a lot longer than this clinic and I am not sure how this clinic initially was able to open up shop and to distribute across the street from a middle school. This clinic impacts our day to day operations everyday. Each day we are not sure what we will encounter but if it was not for our security on campus we would have bigger problems. Each morning the line starts to form in front of the building around 7am, this is the same time our students start coming to school. On many occasions there are fights between people at the clinic, bad language, physical altercations, garbage, and just an unsafe place and definitely not appropriate for our young men and women to see the madness that goes on.

On many occasions many of these people will walk onto our campus to try to use the bathroom or drink water. This becomes just one more thing on our plate that we have to deal with. We at Ke'elikolani Middle School would be very grateful for the bill to be passed, this will help to make our school and community a safer place and help to transform our environment to be more focused on student and staff safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:32:44 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ayman el dakhakhni	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Dear Mr. Saiki and Attendants,

This letter is in reference to Bill 1623. We are in opposition to Bill 1623 for the following reasons. We are a substance abuse clinic, licensed by the state of Hawaii: and we have successfully been in business for the past 28 years and at our current location for the past 24 years. During this time, we have helped over three thousand people with opioid addiction and plan to help many more.

As many of you are aware the opioid epidemic has hit the islands like a tsunami and shows no signs of slowing unless something is done to address the needs of the people afflicted with the disease. Our main goal in providing state approved pharmaceuticals is to help ease individuals out of withdrawal and the cycle of addition and back into society as functioning productive citizens. We have many success stories to corroborate our main purpose which we would be happy to share to those that are interested.

The main reason for our opposition to Bill 1623 is that one of our locations happens to be within a certain distance from a school. We are in open communication with the schools in the vicinity and have abided by their requests. We have a security guard outside the building and monitored security cameras around the building which have been in place for many years. We are in communication with the schools and are in good standing with them.

As stated earlier we are licensed by the state of Hawaii to dispense pharmaceuticals for reduction of harm in relation to opioid addiction. It is our understanding that we are in good standing with the state and licensing bodies to conduct business at our current location. We own and operate this facility successfully and safely and have done so for the past 28 years.

We have invested financially by purchasing the building, so that we can maintain easy and stable access to those in need. Our location is of particular importance because we are within several bus routes which is of significant to people without transportation as well as the handicapped. Our location allows for bus access for the entire island. We are also surrounded by metered parking which allows people easy access to the building.

Whether this law passes or not, it is our belief that we should be grandfathered in and should not be moved due to any changes that may occur due to Bill 1623.

We would like to humbly submit this testimony to the legislative body in light of the current opioid epidemic and our clinics tireless efforts to help ease the pain and suffering caused by opioid addiction.

Thank you with respect.

Mr. Ayman El-Dakhakhni

Owner, Champ Clinic Hawaii