

SCR-213

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 9:12:56 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/28/2022 1:03:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Boehm	Testifying for The Salvation Army ATS and FTS	Support	In Person

Comments:

The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services has been providing a very reputable, effective, evidence based, full treatment continuum of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services for over 3 decades. In our SUD treatment programs we serve over 1,100 unduplicated clients a year. The licensed and accredited full continuum of care, including social model withdrawal management services, to special populations like the uninsured, offenders, and pregnant and parenting women with dependent children has been a big part of our enduring mission of meeting human needs in Jesus' name without discrimination.

We love our work and value the continuation of doing our mission in the best way possible. We can only do this with the support of the Department of Health. We consider this partnership to serve the people of Hawaii an integral part of carrying out our mission. In 2021 The Salvation Army served over 227,000 people in our churches, substance use disorder treatment programs, emergency assistances, disaster services, foster/at risk youth programs, feedings, etc. We believe we do this very well and are more than experts at providing this help. For many years, other agencies, state departments, and families in our community trust us and rely on us to do this well.

We appreciate the partnership with our state/government funders and consider it a privilege to carry out our mission with that support. We anticipate great needs in the months and years ahead as our community continues to deal with and recover from the pandemic and we would like to continue serving at the capacity that we had been in past. Together our investment in our neighbors' healing is invaluable. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this word of testimony in support of SCR213.

Melanie T. Boehm MA, LMHC, CSAC

Divisional Social Services Director

The Salvation Army, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division



Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair, Senate Committee on Health (HTH)
Hearing Date: Monday, March 28, 1:03pm

RE: Testimony for SCR213, Requesting the Department of Health to Restore Funding for Certain Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies for the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 for Residential, Outpatient, and Adolescent School-Based Services.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Distinguished Members of the Senate Health Committee. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO of Hina Mauka, providing services for substance use disorder and mental health including programs for prevention, adult addiction treatment, adolescent treatment, case management, and withdrawal management. Helping people on Oahu and Kauai.

Thank you for your strong support over the past several years of the need in our community for comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs in our state.

Annually for Hina Mauka, over 2,200, adults and students have had access to treatment via residential, outpatient and school-based programs. About 500 of the adults are treated annually in residential at Hina Maua.

As our state emerges from the pandemic, we are likely to see an avalanche of youth and adults who will seek treatment for substance abuse.

Unfortunately, due to the Department of Health's large funding cuts, despite excellent performance and outcomes from all organizations, substance abuse treatment organizations will be forced to turn away those who need help to heal because of lack of funding.

We believe that it is extremely important for the Department of Health to develop a statewide plan to identify, coordinate, and develop protocols for various forms of treatment which are comprehensive and include school-based treatment and residential treatment services.

None of the organizations that serve complex patients, who may have physical and behavioral health challenges along with their substance abuse disorder want to have to deny access to treatment.

We are therefore asking that the Department of Health restore the funding that was cut for substance use disorder treatment services for residential and outpatient adult and adolescent school-based programs for fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so that we can ensure that the right staff is in place and trained to treat those that are requesting help with their addiction.

Without funding and without treatment, these adolescents and adults may end up in our juvenile justice and judicial system which in the long run costs the state millions of dollars.

These individuals need our help, they need your help as our state's leaders to fight for the restoration of these funds to ensure access to treatment.

We are submitting this written testimony in favor of SCR213 and look forward to continuing this conversation with you and the Department of Health.

Aloha



March 26, 2022

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair, Senate Committee on Health (HTH)
Hearing Date: Monday, March 28, 1:03pm-

RE: Testimony for SCR213, Requesting the Department of Health to Restore Funding for Certain Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies for the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 for Residential, Outpatient, and Adolescent School-Based Services.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Distinguished Members of the Senate Health Committee. My name is Abby Paredes. I am the CEO of Po'ailani Inc., providing specialized treatment services for substance use disorder and mental health disorders for adults 18 years and older.

We are humbly asking that the Department of Health takes immediate action to restore the funding that was cut for substance use disorder treatment services for residential and outpatient adults and adolescent school-based programs for fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so we can continue to provide quality services to the people of Hawaii.

The Department of Health's recent funding cuts, to include a decrease of rates, has directly impacted the most vulnerable and underserved population in crisis, especially in light of the COVID pandemic. The growing need for quality treatment services is reaching an alarming level.

Po'ailani Inc. treatment services has been an essential and highly successful treatment service to those who are suffering from severe and chronic mental illness, homelessness and/or release from the Hawaii State Hospital and Hawaii's prison system for re-integration into the community. We serve over 300 adults annually.

Hawaii has undoubtedly been faced with a continued, out of control and growing homeless population, increase of crimes as well as an increase of drug and alcohol use to include the newest drug that has over sieged our youth and young adults with accidental overdose deaths -- **Fentanyl**.

The people of Hawaii are in an immediate and urgent crisis and the need for specialized treatment programs and outpatient services is even greater than ever. Now is the time for additional funding and an increase of support and investments to help providers to continue desperately needed services. We have to prevent services and programs from closing their doors.

Po'ailani Inc. is submitting this written testimony in favor of SCR213 and look forward to be a part of the strategic planning and communication in the future and work collaboratively with the Department of Health and our communities in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Abby Paredes, CEO

**DUAL
DIAGNOSIS
TREATMENT
CENTER**

*Island of Oahu
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SCR-213

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 4:28:53 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/28/2022 1:03:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ray Ogai	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair, Senate Committee on Health (HTH)
Hearing Date: Monday, March 28, 1:03pm

RE: Testimony for SCR213 Requesting the Department of Health to Restore Funding for Certain Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies for the Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 for Residential, Outpatient, and Adolescent School-Based Services.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Distinguished Members of the Hawaii Senate Health Committee. My name is Ray Ogai, private citizen and an employee of a substance use disorder treatment agency.

Thank you for your support as this resolution addresses the concerns expressed by providers regarding decreases in funding over the past several years to certain substance use disorder treatment programs in our community.

Support for this resolution shows a continued commitment to provide the highest quality of program services to our special needs population in Hawaii.

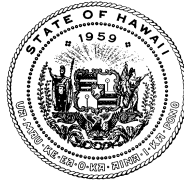
This resolution requesting that the Department of Health restore funding helps ensure those who need help have access to critical substance use disorder treatment services, now and in the soon future where we expect to see an increase in need for services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in favor of SCR213.

Respectfully,

Ray Ogai

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, MD
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 0213
RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

**SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Hearing Date: 3/28/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure and will explore ways to fund
- 3 substance use providers based on the need for services, the provider's capacity to deliver the
- 4 services, and within current budgetary constraints, as well as a statewide plan to identify,
- 5 coordinate, and develop protocols for various forms of treatment to comprehensively help
- 6 individuals and their families receive timely access to appropriate and adequate treatment for
- 7 substance use disorders, including addiction as well as co-occurring mental health disorders.
- 8 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

I am writing in support of SCR213 and to thank the Senate Health Committee for continuing to be open to discussion about the difficult balance that substance use providers in Hawaii face in providing quality, effective substance use treatment services with dwindling financial support.

I write to you as a concerned citizen but also as an employee in a specialized gender responsive treatment program that strives to give women and their families a chance to heal together from homelessness, substance use, trauma and mental illness.

Every family is unique in their strengths and needs. Some families need just short-term support through outreach services or outpatient treatment. Other families need safe, supportive housing while they manage early recovery. And yet others need the highest level of structure---residential treatment---to stabilize physically, mentally and spiritually.

Residential treatment is expensive but particularly when you intend to follow best practices in care, hire the most competent of employees to do this work and provide a space for the individual (and in our case, for her child) that creates a safe environment where they can practice their newly learned relapse prevention and parenting / relationship building skills.

Individuals with substance use disorders need treatment options to best fit their needs which is why it was concerning to see funding cuts in substance use treatment that limited such options.

Your continuing interest in discussion about the most recent funding cuts to residential treatment are much appreciated and gives me at least a sense that concerns are being heard and hopefully, further dialogue and support can continue.

Mahalo,

Candace Pang

LATE

SCR-213

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:38:59 PM
Testimony for HTH on 3/28/2022 1:03:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Golaszewski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Veronica Golaszewski
University of Hawai'i, MSW Graduate Student

Before the
Hawaii Senate Committees on Health and Ways & Means
On
SCR213

SUPPORT
March 27, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Keohokalole, Mrs. Baker and members of the Health Committee.
Thank you, Mr. Dela Cruz, Mr. Keith-Agaran and members of the Ways & Means Committee.

Thank you to all supporting Senate Committees for providing the opportunity to submit a testimony in support of Senate Bill SCR213.

I am a current Graduate student at the University of Hawai'i Manoa pursuing a Master's in Social Work. My strong passion and desire to provide and support vulnerable populations has led

me to choose a career path that advocates for such possibilities. I am currently working directly with individuals struggling with substance use disorders at Hina Mauka. The past two years I have had the pleasure of supporting individuals from diverse backgrounds and challenges. As a professional, I am shockingly surprised by the lack of appropriate, preventative services and early rehabilitation services, given Hawai'i's high rates of substance use related deaths and chronic homelessness. Therefore, I am testifying in favor of SCR213.

Before the Committees today is SCR213, which would correct, within the state of Hawai'i, a long-standing flaw throughout the islands. Hawai'i's local communities are endlessly among the highest populations struggling with substance use disorders in the state of Hawai'i.

- Aside from decades of historical trauma, Hawai'i's local communities are consistently subjected to acts of marginalization, oppression, and inequalities.
- Studies show proof that our current rehabilitant services are inadequately serving these communities concluding a need for change.
- Our local communities are at higher risk of early substance use engagement and the lack adequate, preventative support.

By not supporting or benefiting the essential developmental needs and/or growth of Hawai'i's struggling communities, we are denying this population the chance for realistic change.

The Senate Bill SCR213 would initiate a transformation at the community level that supports and encourages the importance of nondiscriminatory change. Hawai'i's struggling communities should no longer suffer from the countless barriers to actively engage in our society. The incorporation of culturally relevant rehabilitation services could also subjectively promote for a sense of cultural pride and awareness that has been historically suppressed and denied. The passing of SCR213 would offer a realistic approach at managing Hawai'i's high rates of substance use related deaths and chronic homeless population.

Sincerely,

Veronica Golaszewski

Kailua, HI

