



April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Senator Jarrett Keohokalole  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health (HTH)**

**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.

**DUAL  
DIAGNOSIS  
TREATMENT  
CENTER**

*Island of Oahu*

Locations

**ADMINISTRATIVE &  
HR DEPARTMENT**

45-567 Pahia Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Phone: 808-263-3500  
Fax: 808-263-3508

**INTAKE OFFICE**

45-567 Pahia Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Phone: 808-262-2799  
Fax: 808-262-0970

**LICENSED SPECIALIZED  
RESIDENTIAL  
PROGRAMS**

**Kawainui**

553 Kawainui Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
Phone: 808-263-1065  
Fax: 808-263-3157

**Pahia**

45-567 Pahia Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Phone: 808-380-8127  
Fax: 808-235-1840

**OUTPATIENT CLINIC**

46-174 Kahuhipa Street  
Unit G  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Phone: 808-261-8741  
Fax: 808-262-0970

**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

