



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB378
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNES

Hearing Date: February 10, 2023

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department defers to the Department of Law Enforcement 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 170 Hawaii
16 practitioners with an approved federal waiver to provide buprenorphine](#) to treat opioid use
17 disorders. And to increase the number of available practitioners, the federal Substance Abuse and
18 Mental Health Services Administration or [SAMHSA in January 2023 removed the federal](#)

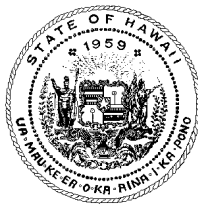
1 [requirement for practitioners to submit a waiver to prescribe medications, like buprenorphine, for](#)
2 [the treatment of opioid use disorder \(OUD\).](#)

3 **Offered Amendments:** First, please strike “substance use disorder services
4 clinic” and “methadone clinic” throughout the bill because the term is not defined,
5 unless clarification is given on what other controlled substances besides methadone are at issue.
6 Substance use disorder services do not dispense methadone. Clients with substance use disorders
7 have to go to pharmacies to pick them up.

8

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU
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Corrections

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Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 378
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, February 10, 2023; 10:00 a.m.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly opposes** House Bill (HB) 378, which: 1) requires the registration and registration renewal for methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics to be deemed a clinic and for the handling of controlled substances to be contingent upon its location being at least 750 feet away from a school, and 2) 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 HB 378 for several reasons.

First, PSD notes that medically dispensing methadone to narcotic-dependent patients via a methadone clinic is strictly regulated by the State of Hawaii and federal laws (Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 291 and Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 8). The medical director of the clinic must be licensed by the State and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the licensed practitioner is wholly responsible for the amounts of methadone administered or dispensed according to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration regulations. The methadone treatment program must obtain a controlled substance registration from the State and the DEA, and admission to the program and medication amounts are strictly regulated.

Second, it is important to understand that substance use disorder is an illness, and when methadone clinics dispense medication to their patients, it is no different than a physician providing medication to a patient in the office, or a pharmacy filling a prescription at the store counter. This closely regulated medical treatment clinic, like any other doctor's office, pharmacy, or treatment facility, is entirely different from a drug den, which PSD agrees, should not be in the vicinity of schools.

The Department's Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) works diligently to enforce the State's controlled substances laws. Its overarching interest is in reducing the harm to our communities stemming from the abuse of controlled substances. One aspect of the NED's work is to help support efforts to ensure that narcotics-dependent persons receive medical treatment to reduce their dependency, so that they do not return to illicit drug use, which has a high social cost.

Third, PSD recognizes that Hawaii is in dire need of methadone clinics. Currently, there are only two such clinics on Oahu, which cannot serve the many more individuals still needing this important medical treatment. HB 378 would affect and likely force the closure of one of them, displacing hundreds of patients undergoing closely supervised treatment who would be at risk for overdose and return to addiction. The State needs more clinics, not fewer, and this measure would stand in the way of providing critical medical services to patients desperate to overcome addiction. Additionally, HB 378 provides no comfort for any existing methadone clinic or substance use disorder services clinic. If a school were to open in their vicinity in the future, they too, would be vulnerable under this measure.

Fourth, HB 378 is contrary to recent federal efforts under a new federal law that became effective in December 2022 whose purpose is to make medication for opioid use disorder, "available to anyone in the country who needs it." Under the new federal law, traditionally onerous credentialing requirements were dropped, allowing any physician or nurse with a controlled substances registration to engage in substance use disorder treatment by prescribing medications such as buprenorphine. As this measure targets clinics (and the physicians and nurses who staff them) engaged in substance use disorder treatment, this proposal is a bar to federal efforts to make medications for substance use disorder more available.

Fifth, HB 378 uses terms that may have effects that are greater than anticipated. The word “clinic” means:

“an out-patient medical facility owned and operated by a legal entity that employs individual practitioners for the treatment of patients and which may or may not provide after-hours emergency or urgent care.”

In the Hawaii healthcare industry, many businesses in Hawaii use a “clinic” model. As such, application of HB 378 could affect many healthcare businesses. Furthermore, this proposal would also restrict registration of “substance use disorder services clinics”. The term “substance use disorder services” is not defined in HB 378. “Substance use disorder services” can mean a broad spectrum of services such as simply talking to a patient about substance use to prescribing and administering medications. Taken as a whole, the application of HB 378 could mean that a very large number of practitioners whose current or future business locations are in the vicinity of a current or future school will potentially lose their controlled substances registration if they simply speak with a patient about substance use disorder.

To illustrate the potential impact of HB 378, PSD provides the following example:

There is a large medical center located within Downtown Honolulu. At that medical center, there are very likely clinics that engage in substance use disorder services. In the vicinity of the medical center are two schools which may trigger HB 378. The Royal Elementary School and a preschool atop the City and County of Honolulu parking structure near Beretania Street.

A simple google search reveals that one story of a building is about 14 feet. As such, the 750-foot distance proposed in HB 378 would mean the height of a 50 plus-story building.

If we were to imagine a 50-story building laid on its side with the first floor at one of those schools and project the building away, the 750-foot rule means that the building would likely impact that medical center. If HB 378 were passed, then this would mean that any methadone or substance use disorder services clinic in the impacted area would not be able to obtain or renew their controlled substances registrations.

Considering this is just one example of what could occur in other places statewide, the impacts of HB 378 could affect many people who would have to find treatment elsewhere.

Finally, these points made, PSD does believe that school safety and security is important. PSD is willing to work with the Legislature to increase communication and prevention efforts where the presence of a clinic and school create negative impacts.

For the reasons cited in our testimony, PSD does not believe it is in the public's interest to restrict the registration of methadone and substance use disorder clinics within 750 feet of a school. Therefore, PSD respectfully requests that the Committee defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
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(808) 587-2562

Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 378
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
Before the House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Friday, February 10, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly opposes** House Bill (HB) 378, which: 1) requires the registration and registration renewal for methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics to be deemed a clinic and for the handling of controlled substances to be contingent upon its location being at least 750 feet away from a school, and 2) gives methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics one year from the effective date of this Act to comply with this Act. DLE strongly opposes HB 378 for several reasons.

First, DLE notes that medically dispensing methadone to narcotic-dependent patients via a methadone clinic is strictly regulated by the State of Hawaii and federal laws (Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 291 and Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 8). The medical director of the clinic must be licensed by the State and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the licensed practitioner is wholly responsible for the amounts of methadone administered or dispensed according to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration regulations. The methadone treatment program must obtain a controlled substance registration from the State and the DEA, and admission to the program and medication amounts are strictly regulated.

Second, it is important to understand that substance use disorder is an illness, and when methadone clinics dispense medication to their patients, it is no different than a physician providing medication to a patient in the office, or a pharmacy filling a prescription at the store counter. This closely regulated medical treatment clinic, like any other doctor's office, pharmacy, or treatment facility, is entirely different from a drug den, which DLE agrees, should not be in the vicinity of schools.

The Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) works diligently to enforce the State's controlled substances laws. Its overarching interest is in reducing the harm to our communities stemming from the abuse of controlled substances. One aspect of the NED's work is to help support efforts to ensure that narcotics-dependent persons receive medical treatment to reduce their dependency, so that they do not return to illicit drug use, which has a high social cost.

Third, DLE recognizes that Hawaii is in dire need of methadone clinics. Currently, there are only two such clinics on Oahu, which cannot serve the many more individuals still needing this important medical treatment. HB 378 would affect and likely force the closure of one of them, displacing hundreds of patients undergoing closely supervised treatment who would be at risk for overdose and return to addiction. The State needs more clinics, not fewer, and this measure would stand in the way of providing critical medical services to patients desperate to overcome addiction. Additionally, HB 378 provides no comfort for any existing methadone clinic or substance use disorder services clinic. If a school were to open in their vicinity in the future, they too, would be vulnerable under this measure.

Fourth, HB 378 is contrary to recent federal efforts under a new federal law that became effective in December 2022 whose purpose is to make medication for opioid use disorder, "available to anyone in the country who needs it." Under the new federal law,

traditionally onerous credentialing requirements were dropped, allowing any physician or nurse with a controlled substances registration to engage in substance use disorder treatment by prescribing medications such as buprenorphine. As this measure targets clinics (and the physicians and nurses who staff them) engaged in substance use disorder treatment, this proposal is a bar to federal efforts to make medications for substance use disorder more available.

Fifth, HB 378 uses terms that may have effects that are greater than anticipated. The word “clinic” means:

“an out-patient medical facility owned and operated by a legal entity that employs individual practitioners for the treatment of patients and which may or may not provide after-hours emergency or urgent care.”

In the Hawaii healthcare industry, many businesses in Hawaii use a “clinic” model. As such, application of HB 378 could affect many healthcare businesses. Furthermore, this proposal would also restrict registration of “substance use disorder services clinics”. The term “substance use disorder services” is not defined in HB 378. “Substance use disorder services” can mean a broad spectrum of services such as simply talking to a patient about substance use to prescribing and administering medications. Taken as a whole, the application of HB 378 could mean that a very large number of practitioners whose current or future business locations are in the vicinity of a current or future school will potentially lose their controlled substances registration if they simply speak with a patient about substance use disorder.

To illustrate the potential impact of HB 378, DLE provides the following example:

There is a large medical center located within Downtown Honolulu. At that medical center, there are very likely clinics that engage in substance use disorder services. In the vicinity of the medical center are two schools which may trigger HB 378. The Royal Elementary School and a preschool atop the City and County of Honolulu parking structure near Beretania Street.

A simple google search reveals that one story of a building is about 14 feet. As such, the 750-foot distance proposed in HB 378 would mean the height of a 50 plus-story building.

If we were to imagine a 50-story building laid on its side with the first floor at one of those schools and project the building away, the 750-foot rule means that the building would likely impact that medical center. If HB 378 were passed, then this would mean that any methadone or substance use disorder services clinic in the impacted area would not be able to obtain or renew their controlled substances registrations.

Considering this is just one example of what could occur in other places statewide, the impacts of HB 378 could affect many people who would have to find treatment elsewhere.

Finally, these points made, DLE does believe that school safety and security is important. DLE is willing to work with the Legislature to increase communication and prevention efforts where the presence of a clinic and school create negative impacts.

For the reasons cited in our testimony, DLE does not believe it is in the public's interest to restrict the registration of methadone and substance use disorder clinics within 750

DLE Testimony on HOUSEBILL 378
RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
February 9, 2023
Page 5

feet of a school. Therefore, DLE respectfully requests that the Committee defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



HB378 Outpatient and Methadone clinics restricted b
[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS](#)

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouci, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb 10, 2023: 10:00 : Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Opposes HB378.

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 and recovery services.

Opposition:

- 1. Remove Substance Use Disorder (SUD) clinics because they don't dispense methadone; a family doctor prescribes suboxone, and patients go to pharmacies to fill the prescription:**

**OUTPATIENT CLINICS CANNOT
PRESCRIBE NOR DISPENSE METHADONE, A
SCHEDULE II DRUG.
ONLY OPIOID TREATMENT
PROGRAMS (OTP) CAN PRESCRIBE AND
DISPENSE METHADONE.**

- a. Suboxone, a schedule III drug, is needed to help people with opioid misuse and has low to moderate risk to the community because it includes both naloxone as well as buprenorphine.
- b. Other Schedule III drugs are codeine, hydrocodone with aspirin or hydrocodone with Tylenol and certain barbiturates.
- c. Pharmacists dispense suboxone directly to the patient based on a prescription.
- d. The Federal government, in tangent with the Department of Health, has set goals to have every primary care 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 their stores.

- e. 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.
- 2. Remove “Licensed” methadone clinics because they are protected by rigorous ADA laws that has been upheld in Federal court that states can NOT restrict such clinics, even if near a school.**
- a. There are only two Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) in the state because they need a special license.**
 - b. The one OTP that is near a school has been in that location in China Town for over 25 years.**
 - c. If there are problems, let’s communicate what are the problems and discuss how to resolve it.**
 - d. OTP needs a special license from the state and they are the only ones who can prescribe and dispense methadone, a Schedule II drug.
 - e. There are only two agencies in the state that are OTP: Champ Clinic and Ku Aloha Ola Mau.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Keep in mind that the original bill was focusing on people with addiction that are not in recovery, hence drug users are the target here for the existing bill that they cannot go near protected areas.
 - h. Methadone helps people who use opioids, which includes pain medication that is legal as well as heroin and most forms of fentanyl that
 - i. are illegal.
 - j. OTPs are essential to the community to help mitigate the opioid epidemic.
 - k. Let’s work with them to resolve problems that keep our children safe and still provide recovery opportunities to people with opioid problems.
 - l. Without OTPs, people on methadone would likely relapse, causing lots of problems in China Town and several would be at risk of dying.

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



TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 378

RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

By

Angela Gough, DO, FASAM

President, Hawaii Society of Addiction Medicine

House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

February 10, 2023; 10:00 AM

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Society of Addiction Medicine (HSAM) **strongly opposes** House Bill (HB) 378, which requires the registration and registration renewal for methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics to be deemed a clinic and for the handling of controlled substances to be contingent upon its location being at least 750 feet away from a school.

HSAM agrees with statutes that protect the community, particularly children, from societal harms of public drug trafficking and usage. However there is no evidence that substance use disorder treatment centers, including methadone clinics, pose any increased risk of crime to the surrounding community. In fact, methadone treatment has again and again been shown to *decrease* criminal activity. When people with substance use disorders are able to access quality treatment, the whole community benefits. The most recent data available tells us that about 29,000 people in Hawaii need but do not receive treatment at a specialty facility

for illicit drug use. HB378 would further limit available treatment when resources are already scarce. Additionally, this bill would further stigmatize addiction treatment and dissuade more people from seeking help.

Medications for substance use disorders, particularly those for opioid dependence like methadone, unequivocally save lives. HSAM asks that the Committee not limit the reach of this life-saving care, and we respectfully request the deferral of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 378

TO: Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Amato, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 10, 2023 (2:00 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **opposes** HB 378, which provides that methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinics be located at least 750 feet away from a school.

With the understanding that this bill is directed at the continued operation of a particular methadone clinic in downtown Honolulu, its provisions would also reach those clinics that provide intensive outpatient services that may include buprenorphine. As such, it is an overbroad measure that will negatively impact our state's ability to provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorder. MAT is currently underutilized across the state.

A December 2022 article in the *Hawai'i Journal of Health & Social Welfare* notes the absence of methadone clinics on Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Lana'i, with limited availability on the other islands. The article notes: "[Methadone is a full opioid agonist and studies have shown better retention rate as compared to buprenorphine, a partial opioid agonist which can be filled as a regular prescription. Increasing availability of MAT will provide additional sites and support PCP \[referrals to treatment\].](#)"

The [Hawai'i Opioid Initiative](#) has been working since 2017 to implement a strategic plan and promote system improvement by integrating substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction within our state's healthcare system. We also hope that a significant portion of the \$78 million received from the [\\$26 billion settlement with opioid manufacturers and wholesalers will be used to expand treatment capacity, including stabilization services.](#)

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions, and have been deeply impacted by trauma from physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:27:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii is opposed to HB 378.

This measure contains an overbroad location restriction that would further inhibit the provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) that has proven to be effective for those with diagnosed opioid use disorder.

This location restriction would also apply to clinics that provide buprenorphine.

Hawaii should instead adopt policies that increase the provision of community-based treatment and reduce the criminal legal system involvement of persons with behavioral health issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

To Whom It May Concern:

This testimony is in regards to HB 378. Some key changes were made to this bill which seem to specifically target our business. We are the only methadone clinic within 750ft from a school and as such our Honolulu clinic alone would be targeted by this bill and action. The 750ft law was originally put into place for Drug Dealers not for recovery clinics. However, it seems this new bill directly impedes the operation of our rehabilitation center.

To begin, our Methadone clinic has been in operation for the past 30 years, and at this location for the past 26 years. Our facility has helped over 3000 clients on their way to recovery. We are licensed and certified by the State of Hawaii and CARF and we are heavily regulated by the DEA. We are in good standing and have been so for the past 30 years.

Bill HB378 seems to specifically target CHAMP Clinic Honolulu due to its location. As stated earlier we have been in operation in good standing for the past 30 years.

1. During that time there have been no documented cases of clients interacting with schools or students in the vicinity or on school grounds.
2. The clinic is in operation from 6:30AM to 12:30AM and clients are monitored by a security guard. We are only open 12 hours concurrently with school hours.
3. We have installed 24 Hr surveillance cameras which are independently monitored. The sidewalk in front of and on the side of the clinic as well as the school side walk are monitored with cameras that record and maintain footage for 90 days at a time. They have been in position for the last 15 years.
4. We have a security guard that monitors the sidewalk in front of the building as well as across the street including the school sidewalk. He is sitting on the school sidewalk. No client is allowed to loiter around the building, across the street, or near the school. The security guard sitting on the school sidewalk does not allow any of our clients to loiter or stand on the sidewalk. This policy has been maintained for the last 15 years.
5. Patients dose at the clinic under the supervision of a doctor and a nurse. None of our patients are allowed take home doses unless they demonstrate clean U/A's for at least six months. This is strictly regulated by the DEA.
6. The take home doses are in clear liquid form in small sealed bottles. Liquid doses make it much harder to sell to a second party unlike some physician offices that might prescribe a 30 day dose in pill form which are much more easily sold on the black market.

7. Our location is of utmost importance as we are conveniently located amid all major bus lines. We are within 2 blocks of major hospitals and government assistance facilities. It is extremely important for us to maintain this location for the convenience and ease of access for our clients.
8. Many of our clients are disabled and require easy access from bus service lines.
9. It is our belief that removal of our clinic from this location would make it difficult for our clients to receive recovery services. This would force them back onto the streets rather than remaining in treatment.
10. Forcing the clinic to move its location would cause a huge financial hardship for our business which could prohibit our business from existing. We believe that we should be granted a grandfathered position.
11. In addition, if the clinic were to be moved, it would cause great hardship to the business. I would like to bring to the attention of the committee that we own our clinic which we bought five years ago at 3%. If we were to purchase another building we would be exposed to the high price of current interest rates which is approximately 8% for commercial properties. If we were to rent, it would be nearly impossible to find a lease or a landlord who will not be pressured to move us. In the first four years on Oahu, we had to move four times due to pressure from landlords. And in Maui in the first three years we had to move three times, due to pressure from the landlords. This put tremendous pressure on us and our clients, but to keep peace we were forced to move.
12. It is our opinion that major development occurring in the surrounding area may be influencing policy to specifically target and remove our clinic because they feel it might lower property values. It seems to be a case of "not in my neighborhood" when it comes to substance abuse rehabilitation. In the past, the outskirts of downtown Honolulu remained underdeveloped. We built our business in this area to serve the underprivileged who were neglected for so many years. We have operated successfully for the past 26 years serving the people of this community. In recent years, big business seeking to install luxury condominiums, have specifically targeted our business because it does not fit in with their vision of luxury living. If big business gets its way, our clients, the silent underprivileged, would suffer and they would be the one to pay the price. We are their voice and we will fight to have their needs met. We are not in business to satisfy the concerns of luxury condo owners. We seek to help the underprivileged citizens who need a helping hand on their path to recovery.
13. We would also like to bring to the attention of the committee that this bill is against federal law as Methadone Clinics are protected from discriminatory zoning under the ADA. I would like to remind the committee that every time this has gone to court in other states (New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Maryland etc.) the federal court sided with the methadone clinic against discriminatory zoning and prohibition of federally protected citizens from

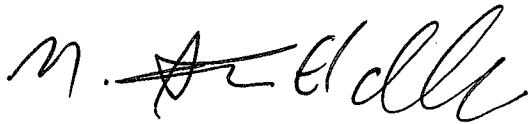
receiving treatment. People with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) have a disability and they are protected from discrimination by the American Disability Act ADA. They must be allowed to take their medication in a federally approved facility which is accessible to them. Passing this law would be in violation of the American Disability Act. We are protected and our clients are protected by the Federal Government

We would like to humbly submit this testimony to the House in regards to our opposition of bill HB378 as we feel this bill specifically targets our business and clients receiving substance abuse rehabilitation services.

Thank you

Mohamed El-Dakhkhni

President Champ Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. El-Dakhkhni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "El-Dakhkhni".

Aisha Esker MA

Manager CHAMP Inc.

173 S Kukui St.

Honolulu, HI, 96813

February, 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

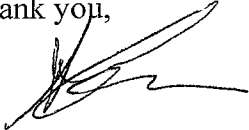
My name is Aisha Esker, I was hired as office manager at CHAMP Inc. approximately two years ago. A few days ago, Mr. Eldakhakhni requested that I do a survey of the surrounding community. **We regularly survey the surrounding community in terms of suggestions and improvements we can make. I called Central Middle School to leave a message for the Vice Principal Jon Hamilton, to ask if he had any suggestions for us. Although, I have not received a direct reply from him (as of this moment, two days later I have received no response), the administrative assistant Joel, was very helpful. He was not familiar with our business and did not know we existed, but he said as far as he knows the school has no suggestions for us to improve services. I told him that he probably wasn't aware of us because we open before school hours begin (three days out of the work week) and are closed before school lets out in the afternoon, therefore he probably never noticed us because we have so few coinciding hours. I mentioned this to Mr. Eldakhakhni, and he informed me that this business has been at this location for 28 years and in that time, there have been no formal complaints to him or the previous office manager; no complaints from the school, its attendants or any surrounding business or resident.**

Over the past two years, I have overseen many activities at CHAMP Clinic. I have gotten to know the staff and clientele quite well. My work day starts early in the morning on some days and I am often here past closing time. We have an excellent security guard who monitors the perimeter, and I have never had an issue with any clients who attend the clinic. In the entire time that I have worked here, I have never gotten a formal complaint from any business, resident or school attendant in regard to any client who participates in the program. Nor have I gotten any formal complaint about our business being in this location. Quite the contrary, I have gotten many comments and compliments about the good work we do in the community and how our being at this location has saved people's lives.

In addition to this Here at CHAMP we take great pride in the work that we do and service we provide to the community. Not only do we provide services to a population of people protected by the American Disability Act who are suffering from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) but we are centrally located which enables access for the entire Island. As I am sure people are becoming

more and more aware, the opioid epidemic is widespread in the United States and it has hit Hawaii with tragic results. People suffering from OUD need help and services. They must have access to those services at a central location. We are located in the heart of a community ravaged by drug abuse, but the job of this clinic is to provide a way out of that viscous cycle. If help is not provided in an easily accessible location then these people have no options to seek treatment. We provide that helping hand, and I am proud to be of service and work at an establishment that takes its responsibility to the community and its residents so seriously.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aisha Esker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aisha Esker

Manager CHAMP Inc.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that work nearby:

1418

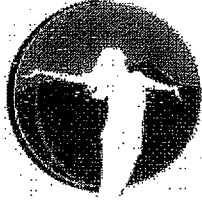
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

CHAMP has been important in
this location as it is close to
my work downtown. I have
worked downtown for 12 years and
have been coming to CHAMP for
12 years as well Bradley Chung

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is very important
for me to get to work on
time This place is perfect
location We need to keep
it open please

B.H.P #640



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

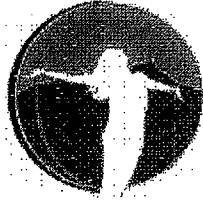
Testimony from clients that work nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I work and
this program
helped me get a
normal life
I like this location
2457 PMS

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Because it keeps me clean
and I have a job now nearby
Jesse
2329



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

#1000

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

This location really matters
to me because I cannot ride
the bus & I have to walk
here close to living. Please

[Signature]

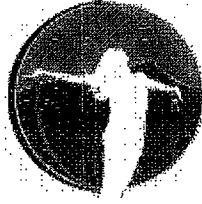
#2383

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

RK

It is easy for me to get to
by bus along with other
services in the area.
Please don't take it away.

Thank You



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

Leticia Luna 971 2090885

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

We really need to stay
open at this location
I ride the bus here
everyday, I walk here
for so please don't
move our location.

#2288

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

ITS A VERY CONVENIENT LOCATION
FOR ME. I TAKE ONE BUS ROUTE
TO GET HERE WHICH ALLOWS ME
TO SAVE WHATEVER I CAN ON
OTHER NECESSITIES. AFTER WORK
I FINISH IN THE MORNING I COME
STRAIGHT TO THIS LOCATION WHICH
MAKES THINGS ALOT EASIER FOR MY
SCHEDULE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.



CHAMP Clinic

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Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It's convenient for
me. I'm 75 yrs. young &
take the bus from
Kaneohe #101

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It's near all my
other doctors

Thank you.

2411 D. J. K.



CHAMP Clinic

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Honolulu, HI 96813
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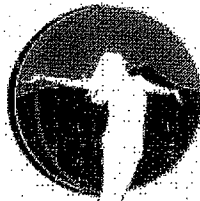
Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

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stay in its current location because:

this location is important because
it is so centrally located. I live
in Kalihi and don't drive so my
ride comes from Kakaia
This is the ideal location. The bus
comes right here. If I don't get a ride

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is close to rapid transit and
convenient for going to other Dr.'s
appointments. We have come
here for 20+ yrs. MH 872



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

Client # 2232

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

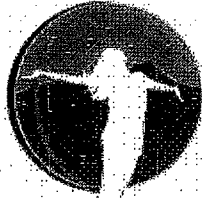
I have appointments at queens
Right After I go to Champs
(almost daily). Please don't
move the clinic it will make
it very hard for me to get to
clinic.

[Signature]

#31 KC

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Champ location is convenient
for me because of its location
I come from Kailua and
I am disable and Champ
is centrally located to my
doctors as well



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

Paula Campos
Paula Campos
(808) 490-3005

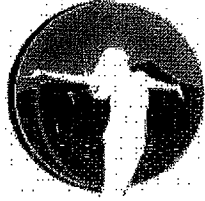
It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

*I have regular medical visits near here and I ride the bus to Champ here
PLEASE understand my situation thank you*

1041 EH

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

It is close to the Hospital and other services for us (patients)



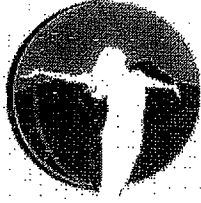
CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

**It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:**

*it saved my life - its close to
my doctor and I'm a terminal
cancer patient.*



CHAMP Clinic

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Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that work nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Because it keeps me clean
and I have a job now nearby

Jesse

2329

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is very important
for me to get to work on
time this place is perfect
location we need to keep
it open please

B.H.P #640



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JL

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live near here and
would be difficult for
me to move

116

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live here.
CHAMP has always been here for me
and the location is key. All the people
that work at CHAMP are my friends.
Anywhere else would be a big mistake.
The community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JL

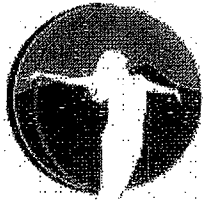
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security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JK

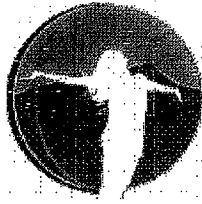
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live near here and
would be difficult for
me too move

016

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

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CHAMP has always been here for me
and the location is key. All the people
that work at CHAMP are my friends.
Anywhere else would be a big mistake,
The community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
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Testimony from clients that live nearby:

2337

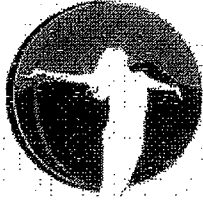
JTM

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Cant afford 2 travel far.
I need my methadone so I
can stay clean.

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live in this area, whether
you like it or not Peoples LIVES
ARE AT STAKE HERE. AND IT IS LIFE
AND DEATH.



CHAMP Clinic

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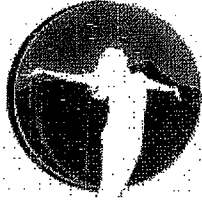
Testimony from clients that live nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live close by and
I have a hard time dealing
with it for always
Mary Lou

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

CHAMP's central location is vital
for the many clients to easily
access its location. Many
of the clinic's clients have
serious mobility issues ~~and~~ & would
face serious difficulties if the
clinic were moved.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
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Testimony from clients that live nearby:

1750

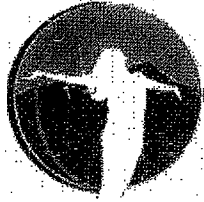
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

[Handwritten signature]

Close to where I
live

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

it's close to my house and helps me get to
my two jobs quicker. If relocated by the airport,
it would take me almost twice as long to get to
and from the new location (if moved)



CHAMP Clinic

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Testimony from clients that live nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

2:407 am
I CAN'T GET AROUND WITHOUT
A WALKER AND IT IS CONVENIENT
I HAVE NO TRANSPORTATION
CHAMP NEEDS TO STAY HERE!

From: 1210 - W.C.

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Majority of us (lived on
Kool, (2) come from the other
side of island (3) majority of
us can't afford bus passes,
(4) or we are traveling w/
pain due to injuries in homes.
cannot travel at all but to make
it to this location stay here



CHAMP Clinic

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Testimony from clients that live nearby:

To whom it may concern:

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because: it is very convenient for me as a disabled person. It is close to all the bus routes and makes it so easy for me to come to this clinic. The other clinic is too far and only 2 buses go that way. This place has saved my life. It would be very upsetting if it were relocated. Please let it stay where it's been for the 20yrs

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

cuz I'm Homeless & I stay
 in downtown

Alma Shyman

A. Leanne Simon

REGARDING: SB983 and HB378 impact on CHAMP Clinic.

9 February 2023

My name is Leanne Simon, and I am one of the counselors at CHAMP Clinic, located at 173 S. Kukui St., District 13, Honolulu, HI 96813. I have lived and worked in harm reduction and addictions services in District 13 since 2020, and in organizations providing services to underrepresented residents nationally and internationally since 2009. This testimony is written on behalf of the clients¹, staff (including myself), and owner of CHAMP Clinic.

CHAMP Clinic has been in business for over 30 years, with 28 of those years in its current location. We have recently been re-certified with CARF, and remain in good standing with the FDA and DEA, and are fully licensed as a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Clinic/Methadone Clinic with the State of Hawaii. Our facility has helped over 3500 people on Oahu, and even more in our Maui location. This bill, like others before it, seeks to single out specifically and unfairly target our clinic as it is the only one of its kind in the state that is within 750 feet of a school.

To challenge this discriminatory bill and request its immediate dismissal, I present the following:

1. CHAMP Clients are required to submit to multiple, random urine-analysis drug screenings per month. These tests must prove the presence of methadone at levels appropriate to their prescribed doses and the *absence of all other drugs* for no fewer than 6 months, as well as approval from their counselor, before take-home doses are allowed. This privilege is immediately revoked should a test come back unsatisfactory.
2. Each dose is strictly regulated by the DEA, and each has a unique "signature" that can be traced back to the point of production and sale. This means that doses are easily traced by lot number. We have never had a complaint from the DEA - demonstrating that any methadone diverted into the community has not come from a patient at our clinic.
3. CHAMP employs a security guard that monitors the area all along the block between the clinic and the school. He ensures that clients remain on the clinic side of the street, and enforces our zero tolerance presence on school side rule that has been in place for nearly 20 years. CHAMP also has 24-hour, independently monitored, surveillance cameras installed that record all activity on the front and sides of the clinic building, as well as capturing activity on the school sidewalk. Footage is held securely, off-site, for a minimum of 90 days.
4. In the 28 years that CHAMP has been at this location, we haven't had any official complaint from the school about any of our practices, procedures, nor people. In fact, most at the school do *not even know we are here* (see their testimony regarding this).

¹ Clients also provided handwritten submissions. Please see addendum at the end of this testimony.

5. CHAMP's current location is of the utmost importance to deliver services as:

- a) We are at the epicenter of public transportation; 95% of the public bus routes for the entire island have stops within one city block of our front door. Most of our clients are living on limited incomes and rely heavily on public transportation. Additionally, many have some form of physical or cognitive disability and proximity to bus stops is crucial to protecting their right to mobility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- b) Three of the major hospitals on Oahu are within walking distance of the clinic. This means that if, for whatever reason, we are unable to provide dosing services to them, or they are experiencing another urgent medical issue, they can quickly and independently get help without reliance on calling 911, which uses public money to access emergency services.
- c) The clinic is located within a few blocks of the courthouse, probation offices, and other legal aid outlets. This nearness means that there is less recidivism, or return to incarceration, due to unnecessarily missed appointments, thereby saving city and state money. Additionally, the clinic is able to maintain communication with parole officers, et al, regarding progress and potential hurdles they may be facing now or in the future.
- d) We are nearby all the major social service departments. Our clients rely heavily on welfare options such as SNAP/EBT, social security, disability, child care subsidy, and employment services to cover their necessities and train them up on skills necessary to engage positively in our society.
- e) The clinic is nearby other venues that host other addiction services, such as 12-step and other support groups, and intensive outpatient addiction services. Continuity of care is critical, especially in the first few years of recovery to find new ways to get their needs met and prevent bad habits from returning.
- f) As we saw in the 1992 move, and is reflected by other clinics that have been forced to relocate in other areas of the nation, the clinic stands to lose about 50% of our clients in any move- even if just down the block. I saw evidence of this first hand when I was running the syringe exchange for HHHRC. When we moved the outreach van, usually parked at the corner of River and Kukui St., just a few parking spaces down the block, our clients would often miss us, not having seen us just up the road. This is due to the repetitive and habitual nature that is characteristic in addiction.
- g) Fifty percent is a substantial number of people returning to active addiction. Imagine several hundred people relapsing simultaneously, each returning to behaviors that they used in the past- usually illegal, potentially violent, to get the drugs that they need to prevent the onset of withdrawal symptoms. Removal of

the clinic's safe, free alternatives to crime is just a drop in the bucket of social ills possible if this bill passes.

6. Moving the clinic would be too great a financial burden on the clinic owner. When he bought this building nearly 5 years ago, it was at 3% interest rate. The going rate for this area is now at 8%. That is more than double, and creates a substantial financial loss. Renting another space is not an option, as any landlord would be subject to the same social, financial, and now legislative bullying as is being suffered currently by CHAMP. The clinic would be at the mercy of someone unaffiliated to maintain their space. This is highly unlikely, given the amount of pressure put upon CHAMP as it is.
7. If this bill passes, the reality is that the clinic will close, along with its sister clinic in Maui. That means that an untold number of people would be returning to active addiction and all that comes with it. And, as stated earlier, the clinic did not bring the problems here- it came to meet the people where they are at. Removing the clinic will not remove the problem, just one of the solutions. I hardly think that a revival of active addiction, and its attendant crimes against property and person, is what one might call "luxury living".
8. Let's face it- this bill is not about the safety of school children. Nowhere in the bill does it mention anything about safety- only distance. And that is precise to singling out a CHAMP. They think that the clinic is an eyesore and that, by forcing us out, in keeping with their NIMBY ("Not In My Back Yard") stance, they will be able to milk even more money from the bourgeoisie new residents that are willing to pay for downtown "cool" at uptown price points.
9. I have not, in my 15 years in the industry across six countries, seen any wealthy business owner with the same passion and fervor for helping the downtrodden as I have seen in Ayman. Though CHAMP is a for-profit clinic, all services are free for the clients, including pricey urine analysis drug screenings. He does this, not because he is trying to get their vote, or campaign donations, and his wealth is certainly not from these clients lining his pockets. He does this because it is the right thing to do. Not just for the clients that show up at our door, ravaged by the effects of drugs and life on the streets, trying to find a better way to live- but also for those new residents, the ones that turn their noses up at us - and for the school. Why? Because none among us is too wealthy, too smart, nor too "good" to be affected hell that drug addiction brings.

The wealthy in this area have the option to go to the high-priced doctors operating nearby that offer a month's worth of take-home methadone at a time, with zero oversight, through prescription easily fillable at the pharmacy. But no one is lobbying legislation at them. And why not? Isn't the point of this to protect the community from the possibility of access to controlled substances due to drug diversion? Hardly.

Please consider my testimony carefully, and weigh the actual repercussions of closing CHAMP Clinic should this bill pass. There are serious consequences facing this entire zone should services be cut or displaced for this vulnerable population. Do you want to be one of the ones

responsible for those grim nightly news stories? Or do you want to go to sleep at night knowing that you are on the right side of history?

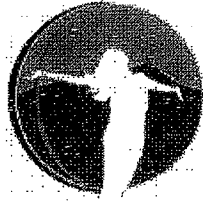
Thank you for your time.

Yours in Service,

A. Leanne Simon
Counselor, CHAMP Clinic
MA – Human Development
MpaCS – Peace & Conflict Studies

ADDENDUM:

In addition to my own testimony, most of the CHAMP clients were eager to add their voices to this discussion. It is, after all, a decision that most impacts them and the direction that their lives might take should this invaluable resource be snatched away. In accordance with HIPAA law, names and identifying information has been redacted, except in the cases we have signed permission to disclose. There are over 100 individual cards by as many clients, completed in handwriting which are being submitted in person by Aisha Esker. I have randomly selected a representative sample of these testimonials, categorized by general topic (as labeled at top of each page).



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that work nearby:

1418

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

CHAMP has been important in
this location as it is close to
my work downtown. I have
worked downtown for 12 years and
have been coming to CHAMP for
12 years as well. Bradley Chung

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is very important
for me to get to work on
time. This place is perfect
location. We need to keep
it open please.

B.H.P. #640



CHAMP Clinic

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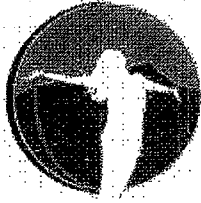
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I work and
this program
helped me get a
normal life
I like this location
2457 JMS

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Because it keeps me clean
and I have a SOD now nearby
Jesse
2329



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
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808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

#1000

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

This location really matters
to me because I cannot ride
the bus & I have to walk
here close to living. Please

[Signature]

#2383

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

KK

It is easy for me to get to
by bus along with other
services in the area.
Please don't take it away.

Thank You



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

Leticia Luna 971 2090825

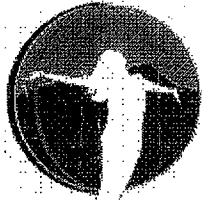
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We really need to stay
open at this location
I ride the bus here
everyday, I walk here
too so please don't
move our location.

#2288

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

ITS A VERY CONVENIENT LOCATION
FOR ME. I TAKE ONE BUS ROUTE
TO GET HERE WHICH ALLOWS ME
TO SAVE ~~WHATEVER~~ WHATEVER I CAN ON
OTHER NECESSITIES. AFTER WORK
I FINISH IN THE MORNING I COME
STRAIGHT TO THIS LOCATION WHICH
MAKES THINGS ALOT EASIER FOR MY
SCHEDULE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.



CHAMP Clinic

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808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It's convenient for
me. I'm 75 yrs. young &
take the bus from
Kaneohe #101

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

to meet all my
other needs

Thank you.

2411 J.K.



CHAMP Clinic

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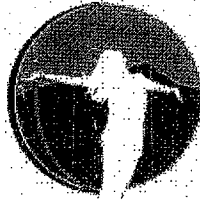
Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

This location is important because
it is so centrally located. I live
in Kalihi and don't drive so my
ride comes from Kalia. This
is the ideal location. The bus
comes right here if I don't get a ride.

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is close to rapid transit and
convenient for going to other Dr.'s
appointments. We have come
here for 20⁺ yrs. Mt 872



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

Client # 2232

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

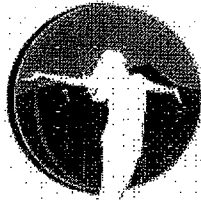
I have appointments at queens
Right After I go to Champs
almost daily. please don't
move the clinic it will make
it very hard for me to get to
clinic.

[Signature]

#31 KC

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Champ location is convenient
for me because of its location
I come from Kailua and
I am disable and Champ
is centrally located to my
doctors as well



CHAMP Clinic

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Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

Paul
Paul
808-426-4515

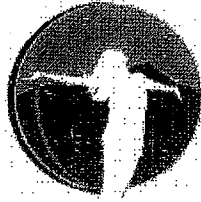
It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

I have regular medical visits near here and I ride the bus to Champ here
PLEASE understand my situation thank you

1041 EH

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

It is close to the Hospital and other services for us (patients)



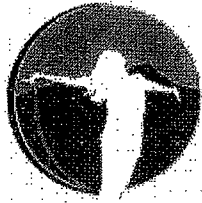
CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

**It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:**

*it saved my life - its close to
my doctor and I'm a terminal
cancer patient.*



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that work nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

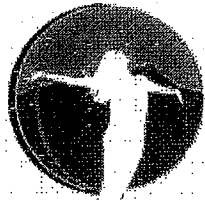
Because it keeps me clean
and I have a job now nearby

Jesse
2329

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is very important
for me to get to work on
time this place is perfect
location we need to keep
it open please

B. H. P. #640



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JL

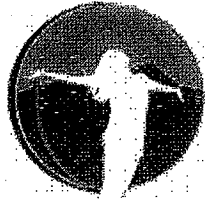
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live near here and
would be difficult for
me to move

116

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live here.
A CHAMP has always been here for me
and the location is key. All the people
that work at CHAMP are my friends.
Anywhere else would be a big mistake,
the community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JL

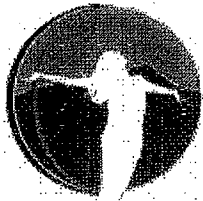
It is important to me that CHAMP
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CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

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116

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Anywhere else would be a big mistake,
The community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

2337

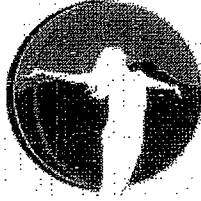
JTM

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Cant afford 2 travel far,
I need my methadone so I
can stay clean.

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live in this area, whether
you like it or not peoples lives
are at stake here. And its life
and death.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

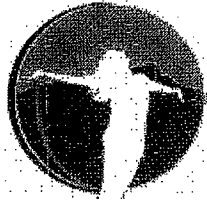
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live close by and
I have a hard time dealing
with it far away

Mary Lou

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

CHAMP's central location is vital
for the many clients to easily
access its location. Many
of the clinic's clients have
serious mobility issues ~~and~~ would
face serious difficulties if the
clinic were moved.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

1750

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

R. M.

Close to where I
live

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It's close to my house and helps me get to
my two jobs quicker. If relocated by the airport,
it would take me almost twice as long to get to
and from the new location (if moved)



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

2407 am

I CAN'T GET AROUND WITHOUT
A WALKER AND IT IS CONVENIENT
I HAVE NO TRANSPORTATION
CHAMP NEEDS TO STAY HERE!

From: 1210 - W-C

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Majority of us (1) live on
Kool, (2) come from the other
side of island (3) majority of
us can't afford bus passes,
(4) or we are traveling w/
pain due to injuries in bones.
cannot travel at all but to make
it to this location stay here



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

To whom it may concern:

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because: it is very convenient for me as a disabled person. It is close to all the bus routes and makes it so easy for me to come to this clinic. The other clinic is too far and only 2 buses go that way. This place has saved my life. It would be very upsetting if it were relocated. Please let it stay where it's been for the 20yrs

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

cuz I'm Homeless & I stay
 in downtown

Atina Skypman

February 8, 2023

Good Day, Citizens of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Eric James Olmos. I am the security/safety employee at CHAMP Clinic and have worked here for over two and a half years. My task is to ensure that the clients and others remain safe during their visit to the clinic- especially to ensure that clients have no contact with the school or the school's property.

I am literally stationed across the street from the clinic, next to the school, along their fence. My bright orange safety vest is a gently reminder that -per their agreement- they do not loiter in the area or have any contact with the school.

I am familiar with some of the staff at the school and, aside from a pleasant greeting, have had no contact – and definitely no negative contact from them in regard to client behavior, and I have been here for almost three years.

The people of the downtown community need to face the hard truth: There is a major drug problem where they live.

The most effective way to deal with the problem , in my opinion, is to provide services within the community itself.

The problem is not CHAMP Clinic. The problem is that not enough of the at-risk people who live in the community are taking advantage of the services offered by CHAMP Clinic.

Thank you for your time.

Eric James Olmos

A. Leanne Simon

REGARDING: SB983 and HB378 impact on CHAMP Clinic.

9 February 2023

My name is Leanne Simon, and I am one of the counselors at CHAMP Clinic, located at 173 S. Kukui St., District 13, Honolulu, HI 96813. I have lived and worked in harm reduction and addictions services in District 13 since 2020, and in organizations providing services to underrepresented residents nationally and internationally since 2009. This testimony is written on behalf of the clients¹, staff (including myself), and owner of CHAMP Clinic.

CHAMP Clinic has been in business for over 30 years, with 28 of those years in its current location. We have recently been re-certified with CARF, and remain in good standing with the FDA and DEA, and are fully licensed as a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Clinic/Methadone Clinic with the State of Hawaii. Our facility has helped over 3500 people on Oahu, and even more in our Maui location. This bill, like others before it, seeks to single out specifically and unfairly target our clinic as it is the only one of its kind in the state that is within 750 feet of a school.

To challenge this discriminatory bill and request its immediate dismissal, I present the following:

1. CHAMP Clients are required to submit to multiple, random urine-analysis drug screenings per month. These tests must prove the presence of methadone at levels appropriate to their prescribed doses and the *absence of all other drugs* for no fewer than 6 months, as well as approval from their counselor, before take-home doses are allowed. This privilege is immediately revoked should a test come back unsatisfactory.
2. Each dose is strictly regulated by the DEA, and each has a unique "signature" that can be traced back to the point of production and sale. This means that doses are easily traced by lot number. We have never had a complaint from the DEA - demonstrating that any methadone diverted into the community has not come from a patient at our clinic.
3. CHAMP employs a security guard that monitors the area all along the block between the clinic and the school. He ensures that clients remain on the clinic side of the street, and enforces our zero tolerance presence on school side rule that has been in place for nearly 20 years. CHAMP also has 24-hour, independently monitored, surveillance cameras installed that record all activity on the front and sides of the clinic building, as well as capturing activity on the school sidewalk. Footage is held securely, off-site, for a minimum of 90 days.
4. In the 28 years that CHAMP has been at this location, we haven't had any official complaint from the school about any of our practices, procedures, nor people. In fact, most at the school do *not even know we are here* (see their testimony regarding this).

¹ Clients also provided handwritten submissions. Please see addendum at the end of this testimony.

5. CHAMP's current location is of the utmost importance to deliver services as:

- a) We are at the epicenter of public transportation; 95% of the public bus routes for the entire island have stops within one city block of our front door. Most of our clients are living on limited incomes and rely heavily on public transportation. Additionally, many have some form of physical or cognitive disability and proximity to bus stops is crucial to protecting their right to mobility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- b) Three of the major hospitals on Oahu are within walking distance of the clinic. This means that if, for whatever reason, we are unable to provide dosing services to them, or they are experiencing another urgent medical issue, they can quickly and independently get help without reliance on calling 911, which uses public money to access emergency services.
- c) The clinic is located within a few blocks of the courthouse, probation offices, and other legal aid outlets. This nearness means that there is less recidivism, or return to incarceration, due to unnecessarily missed appointments, thereby saving city and state money. Additionally, the clinic is able to maintain communication with parole officers, et al, regarding progress and potential hurdles they may be facing now or in the future.
- d) We are nearby all the major social service departments. Our clients rely heavily on welfare options such as SNAP/EBT, social security, disability, child care subsidy, and employment services to cover their necessities and train them up on skills necessary to engage positively in our society.
- e) The clinic is nearby other venues that host other addiction services, such as 12-step and other support groups, and intensive outpatient addiction services. Continuity of care is critical, especially in the first few years of recovery to find new ways to get their needs met and prevent bad habits from returning.
- f) As we saw in the 1992 move, and is reflected by other clinics that have been forced to relocate in other areas of the nation, the clinic stands to lose about 50% of our clients in any move- even if just down the block. I saw evidence of this first hand when I was running the syringe exchange for HHHRC. When we moved the outreach van, usually parked at the corner of River and Kukui St., just a few parking spaces down the block, our clients would often miss us, not having seen us just up the road. This is due to the repetitive and habitual nature that is characteristic in addiction.
- g) Fifty percent is a substantial number of people returning to active addiction. Imagine several hundred people relapsing simultaneously, each returning to behaviors that they used in the past- usually illegal, potentially violent, to get the drugs that they need to prevent the onset of withdrawal symptoms. Removal of

the clinic's safe, free alternatives to crime is just a drop in the bucket of social ills possible if this bill passes.

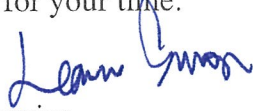
6. Moving the clinic would be too great a financial burden on the clinic owner. When he bought this building nearly 5 years ago, it was at 3% interest rate. The going rate for this area is now at 8%. That is more than double, and creates a substantial financial loss. Renting another space is not an option, as any landlord would be subject to the same social, financial, and now legislative bullying as is being suffered currently by CHAMP. The clinic would be at the mercy of someone unaffiliated to maintain their space. This is highly unlikely, given the amount of pressure put upon CHAMP as it is.
7. If this bill passes, the reality is that the clinic will close, along with its sister clinic in Maui. That means that an untold number of people would be returning to active addiction and all that comes with it. And, as stated earlier, the clinic did not bring the problems here- it came to meet the people where they are at. Removing the clinic will not remove the problem, just one of the solutions. I hardly think that a revival of active addiction, and its attendant crimes against property and person, is what one might call "luxury living".
8. Let's face it- this bill is not about the safety of school children. Nowhere in the bill does it mention anything about safety- only distance. And that is precise to singling out a CHAMP. They think that the clinic is an eyesore and that, by forcing us out, in keeping with their NIMBY ("Not In My Back Yard") stance, they will be able to milk even more money from the bourgeoisie new residents that are willing to pay for downtown "cool" at uptown price points.
9. I have not, in my 15 years in the industry across six countries, seen any wealthy business owner with the same passion and fervor for helping the downtrodden as I have seen in Ayman. Though CHAMP is a for-profit clinic, all services are free for the clients, including pricey urine analysis drug screenings. He does this, not because he is trying to get their vote, or campaign donations, and his wealth is certainly not from these clinics lining his pockets. He does this because it is the right thing to do. Not just for the clients that show up at our door, ravaged by the effects of drugs and life on the streets, trying to find a better way to live- but also for those new residents, the ones that turn their noses up at us - and for the school. Why? Because none among us is too wealthy, too smart, nor too "good" to be affected hell that drug addiction brings.

The wealthy in this area have the option to go to the high-priced doctors operating nearby that offer a month's worth of take-home methadone at a time, with zero oversight, through prescription easily fillable at the pharmacy. But no one is lobbying legislation at them. And why not? Isn't the point of this to protect the community from the possibility of access to controlled substances due to drug diversion? Hardly.

Please consider my testimony carefully, and weigh the actual repercussions of closing CHAMP Clinic should this bill pass. There are serious consequences facing this entire zone should services be cut or displaced for this vulnerable population. Do you want to be one of the ones

responsible for those grim nightly news stories? Or do you want to go to sleep at night knowing that you are on the right side of history?

Thank you for your time.



Yours in Service,

A. Leanne Simon
Counselor, CHAMP Clinic
MA – Human Development
MpaCS – Peace & Conflict Studies

ADDENDUM:

In addition to my own testimony, most of the CHAMP clients were eager to add their voices to this discussion. It is, after all, a decision that most impacts them and the direction that their lives might take should this invaluable resource be snatched away. In accordance with HIPAA law, names and identifying information has been redacted, except in the cases we have signed permission to disclose. There are over 100 individual cards by as many clients, completed in handwriting which are being submitted in person by Aisha Esker. I have randomly selected a representative sample of these testimonials, categorized by general topic (as labeled at top of each page).

Dr. Zube Khan MD

173 S Kukui Street, Honolulu, HI, 96813

2-7-2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Aloha! My name is Dr. Zube Khan and I have been living here in Oahu since 1999. I have 40 years of clinical experience of treating multiple patients in the field of Dermatology as well as Occupational Medicine in Canada and US. Since 2020 I have been working as an Addiction Medicine Physician at CHAMP CLINIC in Honolulu. Therefore, CHAMP clientele has daily access to any or all of the above specialty needs during working hours.

As we are all aware opioid related overdoses and deaths are a public health epidemic that has been curtailed by having access to Methadone treatment clinics. These clinics must be in a centrally placed, well known and established facility run by competent and empathetic staff, who are fully trained in the field of addiction medicine and who follow federally programmed SAMHSA based rules and regulations with a successful but realistic approach for helping those human beings that are stuck in a vicious cycle. Many times these individuals have been prescribed Opiates by licensed physicians. These narcotics can be addicting in nature causing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and subsequent Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (OWS). These individuals, due to unusual circumstances may no longer have regular access to the aforementioned prescription opiates. These unfortunate individuals are now dependent on street drugs and their dealers who promote Heroin as well as Fentanyl laced opiates.

In the year 2020 around Covid time I joined the team here at CHAMP Clinic after a long discussion with Dr. Fred Royce, the Medical Director and Mr. El-Dakhakhni, the owner who were anxious to get me on board in order to provide complete and much needed comprehensive treatment for all individuals that were in need of skin care and other general timely medical care. I was motivated to help these individuals in need as well as other surrounding medical facilities that were dealing with the on-going Covid pandemic situation. The goal was to concentrate on HARM REDUCTION. This was mentioned in my initial interview with the owner Mr. Dakhakhni and is now a recurring positive thought.

CHAMP CLINIC is a well-established, strategically placed clinic for over 25 years with quick and easy access to all individuals in need, due to BUS route and Private access roads. The public school " Central Middle School " is facing away with its entrance more than a 1000 feet . There is no interaction of individuals from the school or the clients that come to this clinic. Clients are not allowed to loiter around the clinic. Clinic hours are 6:30AM to 12:30 PM. Security Guards and Surveillance Cameras are in place.

We therefore, humbly request that this Federally approved clinic and its program be allowed to fulfill its goal of HELPING the vulnerable population via HARM REDUCTION as well as timely access to HEALTHCARE by breaking the vicious cycle of HEROIN addiction and allowing a complete path to RECOVERY.

Sincerely,



Zube Khan MD (Derm,Occ-Med,Addiction -Medicine)



Aisha Esker <aishachamphon@gmail.com>

Fwd: CHAMP Clinic

Mohamed Ayman El-Dakhakhni

<aymand5000@gmail.com>

To: Aisha Esker <aishachamphon@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 8, 2023

at 7:54 PM

Another one
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Johnny Hawkins <johnnyhawkins@yahoo.com>

Date: February 8, 2023 at 7:47:02 PM HST

To: aymand5000@gmail.com

Subject: CHAMP Clinic

Reply-To: "johnnyhawkins@yahoo.com"

<johnnyhawkins@yahoo.com>

From: Johnny Hawkins
98-1284 B Hoohiki Plc
Pearl City, HI 96782

To: Whom It May Concern

It has come to my attention that CHAMP Clinic is being asked to relocate. As a former Counselor and Administrator for the clinic from 1996-2001, I respectfully have some comments and concerns.

I am over 32 years clean and sober from being a former addict and alcoholic. I worked at the clinic in order to help others get through what I had myself gone through, and I indeed wanted to make

meaningful contributions to society. Indeed we helped so many individuals. I physically helped them move into the current location. The clinic is perfectly placed to aid so many individuals in need from that exact same downtown and surrounding areas. We were good neighbors in that community and never received complaints from the nearby school. I have remained in touch because of the mentorship I received from the staff and management. I am aware that security guards have remained outside of the clinic to facilitate proper community relations for the past approximate 20 years.

I therefore request that the clinic remain in place as such. I have a business of my own for the past 27 years and I am a man of faith. I ask you, why not let CHAMP Clinic remain and serve? My phone number is 808-256-0713. If you would like to authenticate or have questions, please call.

Aloha.



Johnny Hawkins

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



February 8, 2023

In re, Letter in Support of 173 S. Kukui St (Champ Clinic/Ayman El-Dakhakhni)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Ayman El-Dakhakhni and his commercial property located at 173 S. Kukui Street (dba Champ Clinic).

I have known Mr. El-Dakhakhni for many years. In recent years I have been involved in several projects (Architectural Design & Construction) with him. Some of those projects involved design work and renovations/upgrades at 173 S. Kukui, the location of Champ Clinic which occupies the lower level.

I can tell you this with absolute certainty. Mr. El-Dakhakhni goes to great measures to ensure the security of his property and the surrounding properties, especially as it pertains to the Patients of Champ Clinic. I have visited the site dozens of times in the last few years, and not once – not a single time – have I encountered any issues with the Champ Clinic Patients that utilize the clinic. Not once has a Patient in the vicinity asked for a cigarette (for example), nor attempted to engage me, harass me, let alone present a threat. In fact, when I usually arrive and there may be a few Patients awaiting their appointment outside, they even move out of the way. I can say that none of my associates (ie contractors, inspectors, etc) ever experienced an issue there. Quite frankly, I was personally surprised at how well managed the security of the property, it's patients, and it's passersby.

Mr. El-Dakhakhni always has at least one or two security personnel who keep close eye on the goings on at 173 S. Kukui, also ensuring other members of the public are not bothered. He does not allow the Patients to congregate/loiter across the street (along the fence separating Central Intermediate School from the sidewalk on Kukui St. He also makes sure Patients don't park and "camp" around the location.

The same *cannot* be said for *most* other random locations throughout downtown Honolulu. I am often approached or accosted in different parts of downtown, Kakaako, Chinatown at random locations by homeless et al.

(continued on next page)



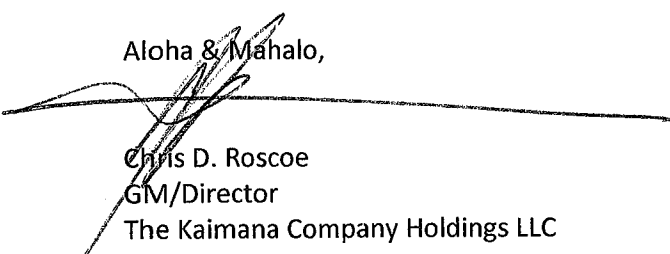
Champ Clinic on the other hand is a necessary and important medical treatment center for those with disabilities (substance abuse) that is well managed and secure. It is also vital to helping to keep crime *down* by treating it's Patients. It has been in that location for more than two decades and is working, with no apparent danger to the public nor school students and staff across the street.

It should also be mentioned that Mr. El-Dakhakhni also spent a great deal of money, effort, and time upgrading the premises, both cosmetically and otherwise. He planted flowers and grass out front, painted the building, and revitalized the site. He cares about 173 S. Kukui Street, he cares about his Patients and Staff, and he cares about the neighborhood and its people.

I urge you *not* to pursue any actions that would require the closure and/or relocation of Champ Clinic and the offices at 173 S. Kukui Street.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (808) 589-8717 or cdr@kaimanacompany.com. I would be happy to testify and/or speak on behalf of my support for Mr. El-Dakhakhni should that be requested.

Aloha & Mahalo,



Chris D. Roscoe
GM/Director
The Kaimana Company Holdings LLC
dba KAICO

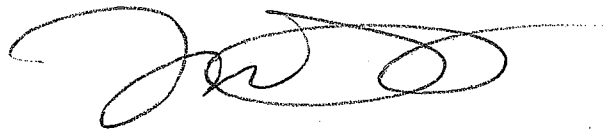
Marie Paishon
Program Director
173 S. Kukui St
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 7, 2023

Being employed at CHAMP Clinic for 21 years; this location is very convenient for our clients. Everything is within walking distance for them such as post office, banks, stores, & the courthouse. Where we can help our clients when they have to appear in court, and need us to speak on their behalf. Or have appointments with their P.O. everything is nearby for us to help them.

Few of our clients used to live/hang out in the park behind the fire station on Pali/Beretania; because of resources that are close by they now have housing and no longer live at the park. And with respect to our neighbors we ensure that our Security person duties includes keeping our client away from the school area, and not loiter around businesses next to our clinic.

Being centrally located the bus stop is just around the corner which is very good especially for clients who travel from the West & Leeward side of the island. Also few of our clients who have to travel from the North Shores , and the windwaed side.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Marie Paishon', written in a cursive style.

February 8, 2023

Good Day, Citizens of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Eric James Olmos. I am the security/safety employee at CHAMP Clinic and have worked here for over two and a half years. My task is to ensure that the clients and others remain safe during their visit to the clinic- especially to ensure that clients have no contact with the school or the school's property.

I am literally stationed across the street from the clinic, next to the school, along their fence. My bright orange safety vest is a gently reminder that -per their agreement- they do not loiter in the area or have any contact with the school.

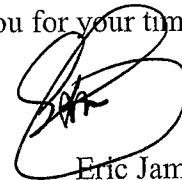
I am familiar with some of the staff at the school and, aside from a pleasant greeting, have had no contact – and definitely no negative contact from them in regard to client behavior, and I have been here for almost three years.

The people of the downtown community need to face the hard truth: There is a major drug problem where they live.

The most effective way to deal with the problem , in my opinion, is to provide services within the community itself.

The problem is not CHAMP Clinic. The problem is that not enough of the at-risk people who live in the community are taking advantage of the services offered by CHAMP Clinic.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric James Olmos', written in a cursive style.

Eric James Olmos

CHAMP CLINIC
173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

2/8/2023

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Natasha Silva and I've been employed at CHAMP Clinic as an intake coordinator and counselor for one year. In this short time, I have seen hundreds of clients walk through our doors. The current location for CHAMP Clinic is important because it services Chinatown and its surrounding areas. This area is home to many of our housed and unhoused clients.

This location is not only a convenient location for them to receive methadone dosing, but the clinic is also located near major bus lines, three area hospitals, courthouses, probation offices, and other social service agencies our clientele must have access to. Moving locations is not an option, as it would displace our clients, and leave them at a disadvantage should they need to access these agencies. Our population also requires routine to keep up with their daily dosing. They do not need a reason to discontinue use or abandon their required dosing maintenance.

CHAMP Clinic continues to uphold measures to ensure the area around the clinic is safe. This includes security cameras around the perimeter of the clinic, as well as having a security guard stationed across the street at the middle school. I have a close friend who is employed at the middle school, who wasn't aware we were located across the street until I informed her. CHAMP Clinic didn't bring problems to the neighborhood, there were already issues present. Our current location is vital for the healing of our stigmatized community members.



CHAMP, INC.
173 South Kukui Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 425-4515

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been employed by CHAMP Clinic for over 4 years now. This location is vital to the community as the majority of our clients are centrally located, and we make it easy for them to access services.

All the major bus routes stop within a couple blocks of the clinic. Also, most major medical facilities are within walking distance from CHAMP.

Our clients do not do well with change. If you change our location, after being here for nearly 30 years, it would be a major shock for most of them. Our clients will be lost in this community without us here to help guide them to their appointments, which are centrally located.

We are working hard to make this community a better place for all to share, work, live, and play in. Relocating our clinic would be disastrous for all parties here. Crime would increase.

Our clinic would best serve our community if it is to stay in its location, where it has been for nearly three decade. Change would do more harm than good to this community. We love this community and care for it to the best of our abilities. To change that would be harmful to the people we serve and we are here for the people who need help. So help us help them, by not making big changes to their lives.

Sincerely,

Brian Peroff

Lab Tech / Receptionist

Brian Peroff

Bruce Kato
Certified Public Accountant
173 South Kukui Street, 2nd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 292-1855

February 7, 2023

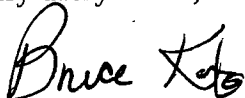
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to inform whatever interested parties out there that I have had my office situated at the above address for well over six years now doing my practice as a Tax Preparer and Financial Advisor. I deal with roughly two hundred individuals and businesses. The majority of my clients are elderly and somewhat affluent. In all of my years here I have never had a client raise an issue about the presence of Champ Inc. on the ground floor of the building. They have expressed that they are reassured of the safety for themselves and their automobiles parked on the street in front of the building due to the presence of the Security Person provided by the Clinic.

I have personally observed the fact that the Security Person hired by the Clinic is in place for all of the hours that the Clinic is servicing patients. His job is to insure that the patients don't loiter or congregate, they are there to dose, see their counselor and then leave the area. He also oversees the patients so that there is no interaction with any non-clinic personnel or any of the school students or staff. It is unfortunate, but true that the Clinic's patients are not the best our society has to offer but the Clinic does it best to insure that there is no negative impact upon our surrounding community by providing the Security Person as well as the Staff's in counseling the patients attempt to instruct them that they must avoid all adverse contact with our neighbors.

As I have stated there is no question in my mind that my clients are safe and secure when visiting my office. If there was ever a doubt in my mind or any incident where a client felt uncomfortable I would seriously consider it. After doing my clients returns for some 27 years now they are more than clients I feel like they are family and I would never want a family member to feel uncomfortable while visiting me.

Very Truly Yours,



Bruce Kato

PaijBritt Nakamura
1423 Lusitana Street # C
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-979-4177

To whom it may concern,

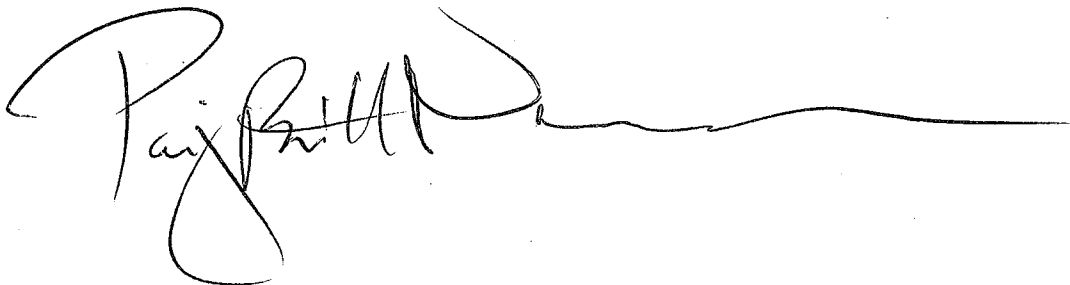
Back in the early 1990s, I was struggling with active addiction. My life had become completely overtaken by drugs; I was despondent and frequently felt suicidal. One day I heard an advertisement for medically assisted treatment on the radio and decided to look into it. That was the beginning of my journey to recovery with the help of Champ clinic. I had lost custody of my two young children at the time but when I got on the clinic and stabilized, Judge Uale returned them to me, My sons father refused to take me to dose in the morning, but I didn't know how to drive. I had no choice but to get in the car and drive myself. I learned how to drive so I could get to the methadone clinic in Kapahulu because there was no nearby bus route to get there easily from my home

Time went by and I experienced a lot of adversity; relapse, acrimonious divorce, incarceration, serious health issues, homelessness and the overwhelming specter of chronic addiction. I was living under the Kuikini bridge and trying to survive on the streets of Honolulu while strung out on heroin. One day while at I was receiving services at the syringe exchange van, I was offered a scholarship for methadone treatment at Champ clinic. I had no money no insurance nothing but they accepted back into treatment, no judgement. Being homeless and broke on the streets made it unduly hard if I had to go anywhere. So I was so grateful to be able to walk to treatment every morning.

Later on after becoming stable again on the program, I found an affordable apartment in the area that put me in proximity to the clinic, so I would have no reason not to make it there every day by 11 am to take my dose. Consistency is the key to successful methadone maintenance treatment and having a geographically easy to access place to get that treatment from is imperative. Without that access I wouldn't have been able to take that first step and make it there to begin with let alone continue for several years.

On February 6th this year I celebrated 11 years of continuous recovery. I have been able to take all those years of adversity and turn them into a viable resource from which I now help others struggling with the same issues. I salute Champ clinic for its service to community and for giving the foundation for my new life.

Sincerely,
PaijBritt Nakamura

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PaijBritt', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends across the width of the page.

CHAMP, INC.
173 South Kukui Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 426-4515

To Whom it may concern,


My Name is Lane Lee. I am a counselor at Champ Clinic. I have worked for champ for almost 2 yrs. I'm writing this letter in regards to a specific bill that is trying to get passed which would force champ clinic to move and relocate, somewhere probably far and out of the way from its current location.

Basically the bill points to champ clinic being to close to the middle school across the street . It is obvious that certain individuals and organizations believe champ clinic may pose some type of threat or danger. This idea is incorrect. One, the school itself doesn't consider us a danger, and when asked, verbally confirmed, even to the point of not knowing we existed across the street.

Secondly, we have a caring and capable security guard, who literally sits across the street up against the fence separating the school grounds and the city and county sidewalk. For years he has specifically been posted there making sure our clients stay on Champ's side of the street. He's posted there from the time we open to well after we close, periodically patrolling the school side of the sidewalk, making sure our clients are not loitering across the street, and also cleans any rubbish throughout his shift.

Third, my son used to be a student at that middle school between the years of 2017-2018. My schedule permitted me to personally be able to pick up my son from school almost everyday. I say this because for the two years my son attended that specific middle school and daily I would pick him up afterschool, that I myself and including my son, had no idea there was a methadone clinic across the street. There was absolutely no indication that a methadone clinic existed across the street, nor did I ever hear talk of such a one among my fellow parents. Also, I never heard my son and his friends ever mention or show any signs of having any knowledge of such a place across the street. I can honestly say that at no point did my son and I ever feel or experience any type of danger or threat due to the Clinics close proximity.

Lastly, the ones who will suffer the most from this move would be our clients. A large percentage our clients are homeless, living in the surrounding area. They would greatly be affected by no longer being in close proximity to the clinic, having no consistent access to proper transportation, and so would the ability to properly access our much needed services. Also, I personally know that a lot of my clients doctors, Therapists, Psychs, and other important appointments are all located near the clinic, which makes our location valuable and reachable to them. Moving this clinic would cause a shockwave that this community, in my opinion, would feel in a very negative way. Without Champ here, there would be hundreds of opiate addicts left with a very unaccessible way to receive their medication, and so eventually drifting back to the familiar once again, which for them is Heroin and other illicit narcotics. Those said narcotics are obviously not covered by their insurances , unlike the methadone which is, and so turning to crime to fund such purchaces of illegal substances. That would set off a chain of events which will undoubtedly cause the crime rate to spike, and that will then pose a real and immediate danger to that specific middle school.

counselor, Lane Lee


CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

My name is George Tevis, and I've been a client of CHAMP Clinic for several years. I'd like CHAMP to stay in its location because of how easy it is to access by bus. I have problems with my back and knees from years of working, so the fact that I can off the bus right by the clinic is very important. Honestly, the possibility that CHAMP might have to move scares me. This isn't just like a regular business that easily put a sign up that says, "Hey, we're moving, check out our new location!". Half of us here are homeless, living in shelters, or been on the streets, and we know this area well. The clinic is one of the things that actually brings hope to a part of the city where everywhere you look, can seem full of despair. We come to the clinic, we get our medication, meet with our counselors when needed, and we go on with our day. Coming here to the CHAMP Clinic on Kukui is a privilege that I'm truly grateful for, depend on, and hopefully can continue to come to for as long as I need to.

Rita Vande Berghe

To whom it may concern,

Champ Clinic is located in the middle downtown Honolulu, especially for drug addicts and homeless population. Since we have numerous parks surrounding us, it is very easy for anyone to walk to. Buses are accessible for anyone who is in need since they can be let off a block away from the clinic no matter where on the island they are coming from.

Also, housing assistance, welfare, Social Security, job training programs, Disability Rights Center, Legal Aid, Queens intensive outpatient services for dual diagnosed individuals, Adult Probation and Parole, Harm Reduction, the major behavioral health services and more that our clients depend on have their offices downtown which makes it easier on our clients to make it to their appointments. Many of our clients live in the area which makes life easier all around because of the clinics central location.

We want our people to live in a community where they feel secure, while at the same time assist them to reduce the harms in their lives which in turn reduces the harms in the community.

Sincerely,



Rita Vande Bergh

-substance abuse counselor, 8 years at Champ Clinics

02/09/2022

To: Whom it may concern
From: HaneefBilal Salahuddin-Abdul Shafiq
RE: CHAMP CLINIC LOCATION

Dear:

In retrospect, I've been employed at CHAMP for over 30 years and we have been at 173 Kukui Street for 28 years. And management has improved the clinic via more staffing, security guard, remodeled the building, etc. Our patients have not caused any problems, a school is located across from us and we had no issues with the school or students. Our patients stay away from the area, which is mandated by CHAMP's owner, any violations will result in patient being discharged.

We have served the community by treating addicts that would be engaging in criminal activities if they weren't being treated for their addiction via CHAMP. Most of our patients are productive, business owners, professionals, laborers, etc.

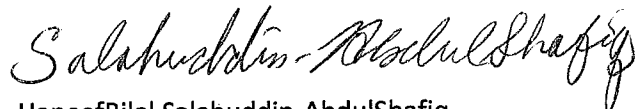
Our location better serves our patients because we are centrally located on the bus line, and in the city where patients can come for treatment and return to work etc. via bus, cab, or walking.

Otherwise, if a location is difficult for them to attend they will return to street drugs and commit crimes, etc. I'm a former prison guard and currently psych social worker for the Women's prison-23 years. And I can safely say, our patients follow clinic rules-have not caused any harm to the community, in fact we have treated and continue to treat people who would otherwise be incarcerated, sick, or dead. Via treatment most of them are able to live normal lives, and others we are assisting with establishing a positive life. Removing CHAMP from current location will have a detrimental effect on the community

Our patients are referred to psychologists/psychiatrists, which are located few blocks from the clinic, so they able to dose and walk a few blocks to their therapists. Most would never make their appointments if they had to travel to another location.

For further information please contact me at the following number: 808 722 4678.

Sincerely,



HaneefBilal Salahuddin-AbdulShafiq

MA, Sociology

Madelyn Barr
February 7, 2023

CHAMP Clinic Must Stay Where It Is

CHAMP Clinic is a SAMHSA and CARF-certified healthcare facility in Downtown Honolulu. CHAMP Clinic services nearly 200 people every day focusing on their substance abuse disorder needs as well as their overall physical and mental health.

Methadone is an evidence-based FDA-approved medication to treat Opiate Use Disorder (OUD). It has been used in the U.S. since the 1970s and is considered the 'gold standard' of opiate abuse treatment. Methadone does not get a person high - instead, the medication works to: 1) block the euphoric effects of opioids, 2) relieve cravings, 3) normalize brain chemistry, and 4) normalize physical functions without withdrawal effects. Taking methadone for opioid addiction is the same as taking medication for any other chronic disease like diabetes or asthma. When used according to a doctor's instructions, methadone is safe and effective, and will not create a new addiction.

Patients enrolled in Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) have a 50% less chance of dying compared to abstinence-based models. Additionally, making methadone accessible reduces HIV risk by 54% among people with OUD. Participation in methadone maintenance treatment is also highly protective against hepatitis C. Methadone clinics also decrease the prevalence of crime in that area. A study published in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs found that crime was significantly higher around liquor stores and corner stores than near methadone clinics (Fakunle & Milam, n.d.). Crime is reduced by 38% in areas near methadone clinics (Fakunle & Milam, n.d.). Additionally, 85% of drug users who received MMT decreased drug-related crime (Fakunle & Milam, n.d.). Methadone is also associated with a 50% lower rate of hospitalization (Russolillo, 2019).

Social stigma is the disapproval of, or discrimination against, an individual or group based on perceived characteristics that serve to distinguish them from other members of a society. Unfortunately, people with OUD face a significant amount of stigma and discrimination against them, which flows into where they decide to seek treatment. It is so unfortunate that this stigma still exists in 2023. People with OUD, and the facilities that treat them, should not be attacked and ostracized, but rather thanked and appreciated for the work they do in the community. By CHAMP Clinic operating in the Downtown Honolulu community, a vast majority of its residents with OUD are able to receive the treatment they so desperately need. It is imperative that CHAMP Clinic stays in its current location and is not forced to move as its current location is central with easy access to all major freeways and bus routes as well as being in walking distance to where many of its houseless clients stay. Easy access to a treatment facility is imperative for CHAMP's houseless individuals who make up a majority of CHAMP's clientele. If CHAMP Clinic were forced to move, these houseless individuals would have a difficult time getting transportation to the clinic as many of them walk to the clinic every day. By having CHAMP Clinic forced to move locations, a majority of their clients would not be able to

access treatment - undoubtedly increasing their risk and chance of overdosing and dying. Moving CHAMP Clinic could easily cause a burden to our houseless community that is currently seeking help for their OUD. Forcing CHAMP Clinic to move locations will also increase admissions to the hospital and utilizations of emergency services (ie. ambulances, etc.). Healthcare is a resource Hawaii is already lacking in a multitude of areas, and this will only increase resource expenditure in this area when these resources could go to more urgent and critical matters. Removing CHAMP Clinic from its current location could possibly correlate to an increase in crime (including in school areas). Having CHAMP Clinic operate where it currently is may potentially reduce crime around schools.

Lastly, CHAMP Clinic has given me my life back. I am forever indebted to this facility for how much they have helped me get my life back on track. Not only was I able to get clean, I was able to go back to doing my master's and as of now, I only have one class left to finish. Currently, I commute from Kaneohe to CHAMP Clinic every day. Because CHAMP Clinic is right off the Pali Highway (and in such a central location), it allows me to receive the treatment I desperately need. If CHAMP were to move, this would undoubtedly affect me as well as the rest of the patients here at CHAMP.

2415
MB

References

Fakunle, D., & Milam, A. (n.d.). *Not in my back yard: A comparative analysis of crime around publicly ...* Journals of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. Retrieved February 8, 2023, from <https://www.jsad.com/doi/full/10.15288/jsad.2016.77.17>

Russolillo, A. (2019, March 15). *Methadone treatment and substance-related admissions in a population with criminal convictions*. JAMA Network Open. Retrieved February 7, 2023, from

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2728000#:~:text=For%20hospital%20admissions%20due%20to,hospital%20admissions%20per%20100%20PYs.>

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 5:45:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Novatnack	Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Middle School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Methadone clinics should not be near the vicinity of a school. While methadone clinics do honorable work, children should not be regularly exposed to the patients a methadone clinic brings in. The methadone clinic near the school I teach at often has patients crowding the sidewalk waiting to be let in. This makes the sidewalk difficult to access, and this also leads to irritability within a crowd. I have witnessed patients waiting to be let in erratically cross the road without looking, which has made my commute to work worrisome some days. The close proximity to a school does not protect our kids, especially our at-risk population. I support the relocation of methadone clinics near schools to protect our children, and I also suggest locating the methadone clinics off busy roadways.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:42:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlyn Zarazua	Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Middle School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha, my name is Kaitlyn Zarazua. I am a 6th grade ESOL teacher at Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Middle School. I am writing in support of this bill being passed. While I am in support of getting all those in need of help and receiving services to help them, I find that the clinic directly across our school negatively impacts our students and school culture. My classroom specifically faces the street that overlooks the clinic and almost daily class is disrupted by outbursts, violent screams, etc. Our students already face harsh challenges in their lives and at home. I don't want their school, a supposed safe environment, to add to their daily stressors and challenges. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Kaitlyn Zarazua

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 4:39:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Passantino	Ke'elikolani Middle School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100%. I am the Principal of Ke'elikolani Middle School across the street. I feel that it is inappropriate for our students to have to walk to school and cross the paths of the people in line at the center. I am not going to say all of the people are bad, but there are constant fights, yelling, cussing, and situations that we have had to call the police for. Our classrooms have windows and our students have to see this type of behavior in a school setting. I know it is not ok for my kids personally to see this and I know it would not be ok for your kids to see this type of behavior. I know if we were in a different area, this would not even be an issue because the parent outcry would be so much. Please consider moving this space to help protect our school community and validate the space that we are in. Thank you .

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:58:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Leong	Ke`elikolani Middle School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

I am writing in support of HB378. I'm a faculty member at Ke`elikolani Middle School, located right across the street from a methadone clinic. I've been a faculty member for over twenty years and have seen the activity from the clinic becoming increasingly unstable and, at times, dangerous. Prior administration tried to have the clinic move, but they were allowed to continue their business right across the street for whatever reason. I understand the need for the methadone clinic, as they provide services to assist people with their drug addiction. However, they should be further away from schools.

Our students face challenges in our community every day as they walk to and from school. The clinic adds to its challenge. The clients sleep, sit, and camp out along the sidewalks and medians along Kukui St and Pali Hwy. Their personal belongings and trash are all over the sidewalk. Their human feces are on the sidewalk.

These clients are a danger to our students and the people who live and work in our community. Police have been to the clinic due to arguments and altercations, sometimes every week. I've even witnessed the clinic locking the doors when their clients become unruly. Their clients illegally park in our parking lot and sometimes block our driveway into our parking lot, waiting for their colleagues at the clinic.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is a priority. Our school should not have to deal with this challenge when there must be a more suitable location for a methadone clinic. Our students deserve to live in a beautiful community and a safe learning environment.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Good morning,

I am writing in support of HB378. I am a current faculty member at Ke'elikolani Middle School, located in downtown Honolulu. Directly across from our school is a methadone clinic. While I support people receiving help through the methadone clinic, I strongly feel that the clinic, or other similar businesses, should be located further from schools.

I have worked at Ke'elikolani Middle School for 20 years. Since the methadone clinic arrived, I have witnessed a steady decline in the immediate neighborhood. There is a daily stream of individuals who go to the clinic and then proceed to hang out on the grassy median on Pali Hwy or on the sidewalks around our school.

The clinic's close proximity to our school has impacted the safety and security of our school, students, and surrounding community. Clients of the clinic illegally park or wait in our school parking lot. There are frequent loud, unruly, arguments and/or altercations between the clinic's clients that disrupt the learning in the classrooms which are right across the street. Despite the efforts of the clinic's security officer, police are often called to handle these situations. The constant conflict stemming from the clinic threatens the safety of our students and staff, and is not conducive to learning.

Our students already face many challenges in their daily life. The unsafe and disruptive conditions that directly stem from the methadone clinic's location should not be an added challenge for them. Our students deserve a safe and healthy environment in which to learn and grow.

Thank you

Letter in support of House Bill 378

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Matthew Solomon and I am a new special education teacher on Princess Ruth Keelikolani Middle School campus. Principal Passantino, administration, and security does an excellent job in ensuring all of our safety on campus. However, I was astonished to witness and experience scenarios that I strongly attribute to the location of a Methadone clinic in close proximity to our beloved school. I would also like to preface this by stating I understand that homelessness, mental illness, and drug addiction are all at play here, and I do not attribute the following issues only to the Methadone clinic. However I do feel there is definitely a strong correlation between the Methadone clinic, and the many unfortunate scenarios I have witnessed in just half a school year being on this campus. Such as:

- Three different occasions of groups of individuals using heroin.
- Walked over two needles with my special needs student.
- Saw a lady who appeared to be under the influence, holding a knife, on the fence of our campus, and chased down Vineyard Blvd. by police.
- Two occasions I found fecal matter outside of my door.
- Found, what appeared to be, an empty bag of drugs outside my door.
- Not to mention a few times a week, homeless individuals establish a site, in the park, directly outside my classroom door.
- Large amounts of rubbish, as well as what appears to be stolen goods.

It is very unfortunate that we literally are afraid to take my student into the park, in fear he may step on a needle. Children on this campus already deal with many unfortunate circumstances and difficulties that are out of their control. This bill will address situations and scenarios that will lessen their exposure to things that children in school should not have to become desensitized too. It seems obvious that no Methadone clinic should be located within a specified distance of a school or park.

Please accept this letter as testimony to my support of bill 378.

Mahalo,
Matthew Solomon
Special Education Teacher
Princess Ruth Keelikolani Middle School

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 5:53:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Galarita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a teacher at Princess Ruth Ke'elikolani Middle School and am in support of this bill. No methadone clinic should be in the vicinity of a school, let alone ours, as the safety of our keiki should be valued above all else. No parent would be okay with this, so why have our students and parents been disregarded for many years? The legislature has an opportunity through this bill to make this pono.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 5:58:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Galarita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of HB378. No methadone clinic should be in such close proximity to a middle school, especially a school with such a vulnerable and underserved population. This needs to change immediately.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 6:24:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerrald de Guzman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB378.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:09:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB378

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:17:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akela Knott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and think it is completely inappropriate for a clinic to be allowed to operate so close to a school where our vulnerable children could be misled and even harmed through such close proximity to the activities and persons utilizing this clinic.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:39:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Satomi Kurazumi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee

I am a teacher at Princess Ruth Keelikolani Middle School. Every morning, I come to work and drive by the methadone clinic seconds before I enter the parking lot. Some days, the clinic clients are roaming around or sleep on pedestrian paths. Some have used our school fence to dry their clothes, some trespassed our campus, some got into fight right in front of our students... the list goes on...I personally do not appreciate that this is what I see witness in the morning. But most importantly, I can't imagine how our young students feel walking to school every day and the sight they see as they walk into our campus. This should not be the norm for our students. I emphasize some parents not wanting to send their children to our school which stands in front of the clinic. Having said that, I support the Bill to relocate the clinic away from our school. This school stands on the royal ground and will continue to be proud of the legacy that Princess Ruth Keelikolani left behind for our future generation. This school deserves to be in a much safer environment. Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to testify to support this Bill.

PaijBritt Nakamura
1423 Lusitana Street # C
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-979-4177

To whom it may concern,

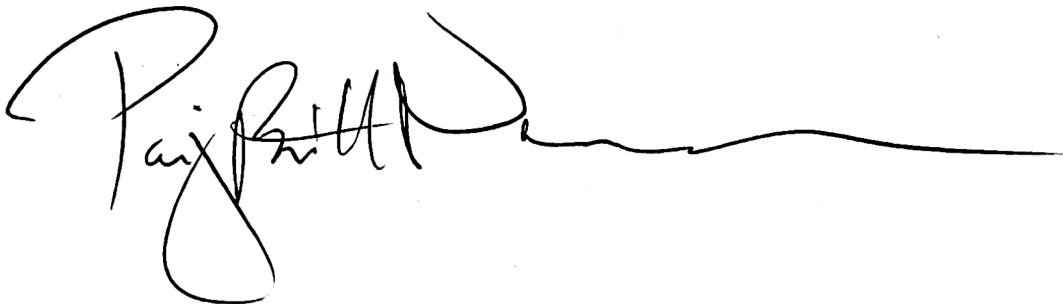
Back in the early 1990s, I was struggling with active addiction. My life had become completely overtaken by drugs; I was despondent and frequently felt suicidal. One day I heard an advertisement for medically assisted treatment on the radio and decided to look into it. That was the beginning of my journey to recovery with the help of Champ clinic. I had lost custody of my two young children at the time but when I got on the clinic and stabilized, Judge Uale returned them to me, My sons father refused to take me to dose in the morning, but I didn't know how to drive. I had no choice but to get in the car and drive myself. I learned how to drive so I could get to the methadone clinic in Kapahulu because there was no nearby bus route to get there easily from my home

Time went by and I experienced a lot of adversity; relapse, acrimonious divorce, incarceration, serious health issues, homelessness and the overwhelming specter of chronic addiction. I was living under the Kuikini bridge and trying to survive on the streets of Honolulu while strung out on heroin. One day while at I was receiving services at the syringe exchange van, I was offered a scholarship for methadone treatment at Champ clinic. I had no money no insurance nothing but they accepted back into treatment, no judgement. Being homeless and broke on the streets made it unduly hard if I had to go anywhere. So I was so grateful to be able to walk to treatment every morning.

Later on after becoming stable again on the program, I found an affordable apartment in the area that put me in proximity to the clinic, so I would have no reason not to make it there every day by 11 am to take my dose. Consistency is the key to successful methadone maintenance treatment and having a geographically easy to access place to get that treatment from is imperative. Without that access I wouldn't have been able to take that first step and make it there to begin with let alone continue for several years.

On February 6th this year I celebrated 11 years of continuous recovery. I have been able to take all those years of adversity and turn them into a viable resource from which I now help others struggling with the same issues. I salute Champ clinic for its service to community and for giving the foundation for my new life.

Sincerely,
PaijBritt Nakamura

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PaijBritt Nakamura", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:50:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aisha Esker	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aisha Esker MA

Manager CHAMP Inc.

173 S Kukui St.

Honolulu, HI, 96813

February, 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Aisha Esker, I was hired as office manager at CHAMP Inc. approximately two years ago. A few days ago, Mr. Eldakhakhni requested that I do a survey of the surrounding community. We regularly survey the surrounding community in terms of suggestions and improvements we can make. I called Central Middle School to leave a message for the Vice Principal Jon Hamilton, to ask if he had any suggestions for us. Although, I have not received a direct reply from him (as of this moment, two days later I have received no response), the administrative assistant Joel, was very helpful. He was not familiar with our business and did not know we existed, but he said as far as he knows the school has no suggestions for us to improve services. I told him that he probably wasn't aware of us because we open before school hours begin (three days out of the work week) and are closed before school lets out in the afternoon, therefore he probably never noticed us because we have so few coinciding hours. I mentioned this to Mr. Eldakhakhni, and he informed me that this business has been at this location for 28 years and in that time, there have been no formal complaints to him or the previous office manager; no complaints from the school, its attendants or any surrounding business or resident.

Over the past two years, I have overseen many activities at CHAMP Clinic. I have gotten to know the staff and clientele quite well. My work day starts early in the morning on some days and I am often here past closing time. We have an excellent security guard who monitors the perimeter, and I have never had an issue with any clients who attend the clinic. In the entire time that I have worked here, I have never gotten a formal complaint from any business, resident or school attendant in regard to any client who participates in

the program. Nor have I gotten any formal complaint about our business being in this location. Quite the contrary, I have gotten many comments and compliments about the good work we do in the community and how our being at this location has saved people's lives.

In addition to this Here at CHAMP we take great pride in the work that we do and service we provide to the community. Not only do we provide services to a population of people protected by the American Disability Act who are suffering from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) but we are centrally located which enables access for the entire Island. As I am sure people are becoming more and more aware, the opioid epidemic is widespread in the United States and it has hit Hawaii with tragic results. People suffering from OUD need help and services. They must have access to those services at a central location. We are located in the heart of a community ravaged by drug abuse, but the job of this clinic is to provide a way out of that vicious cycle. If help is not provided in an easily accessible location then these people have no options to seek treatment. We provide that helping hand, and I am proud to be of service and work at an establishment that takes its responsibility to the community and its residents so seriously.

Thank you,

Aisha Esker

Manager CHAMP Inc.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:29:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and HLT Committee Members,

I write in strong opposition to HB378, which would require methadone clinics in Hawai'i to only be able to provide services "contingent upon its location being at least 750 feet away from a school".

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, this bill does not take into account the impact on existing methadone clinics that may already be in such locations. With only 4 methadone clinic sites statewide, this bill would effectively reduce access to evidence-based and necessary care. As the opioid epidemic has now evolved into a poly-drug use crisis, we cannot afford to reduce the number of resources to manage substance use among our community members.

For the sake of our community's health, I urge you not to pass this bill.

With thanks,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:39:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB378 and stand by testimony submitted by the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition.

There is much misinformation about medication assisted treatment and an absence of knowledge about the laws that protect those who are trying to remain in recovery from their substance use disorder. I support direct collaboration between parties if there have been issues or incidents regarding these types of treatment programs near schools. Education. Dialogue. Building an understanding together. Breaking down stigma as well.

Let's not forget that individuals who are accessing treatment programs are **wanting** recovery--- that's why they're there. They are also your daughters, sons, wives, husbands, grandparents! These are your family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. They are also often mothers and fathers with children who are trying to heal as a family too and who have every right to access their health care and their children's educational services right within their community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:54:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari R. Lynn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose this Bill as it is written with

regards to rural communities:

If a clinic on Molokai, Lanai or Hana

were to deliver methadone, the

chances of it being near a school are

nearly 100%. Generally, in rural communities, services are not spread out but

rather centralized to make them more

accessible for most. Again, we point

out that the majority of substance

misuse problems stem from folks

who are actively using drugs, not those who are actively recovering!

Mahalo for consideration when addressing substance misuse within the rural Hawai'i communities.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:30:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
zubeida khan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr. Zube Khan MD 4345

Assistant Medical Director

173 S Kukui Street, Honolulu, HI, 96813

2-7-2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Aloha! My name is Dr. Zube Khan and I have been living here in Oahu since 1999. I have 40 years of clinical experience of treating multiple patients in the field of Dermatology as well as Occupational Medicine in Canada and US. Since 2020 I have been working as an Addiction Medicine Physician at CHAMP CLINIC in Honolulu. Therefore, CHAMP clientele has daily access

to any or all of the above specialty needs during working hours.

As we are all aware opioid related overdoses and deaths are a public health epidemic that has been curtailed by having access to Methadone treatment clinics. These clinics must be in a centrally placed, well known and established facility run by competent and empathetic staff, who are fully trained in the field of addiction medicine and who follow federally programmed SAMHSA based rules and regulations with a successful but realistic approach for helping those human beings that are stuck in a vicious cycle. Many times these individuals have been prescribed Opiates by licensed physicians. These narcotics can be addicting in nature causing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and subsequent Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (OWS). These individuals, due to unusual circumstances may no longer have regular access to the aforementioned prescription opiates. These

unfortunate individuals are now dependent on street drugs and their dealers who promote Heroin as well as Fentanyl laced opiates.

In the year 2020 around Covid time I joined the team here at CHAMP Clinic after a long discussion with Dr. Fred Royce, the Medical Director and Mr. El-Dakhakhni, the owner who were anxious to get me on board in order to provide complete and much needed comprehensive treatment for all individuals that were in need of skin care and other general timely medical care. I was motivated to help these individuals in need as well as other surrounding medical facilities that were dealing with the on-going Covid pandemic situation. The goal was to concentrate on HARM REDUCTION. This was mentioned in my initial interview with the owner Mr. Dakhakhni and is now a recurring positive thought.

CHAMP CLINIC is a well-established, strategically placed clinic for over 25 years with quick and easy access to all individuals in need, due to BUS route and Private access roads. The public school “ Central Middle School “ is facing away with its entrance more than a 1000 feet . There is no interaction of individuals from the school or the clients that come to this clinic. Clients are not allowed to loiter around the clinic. Clinic hours are 6:30AM to 12:30 PM. Security Guards and Surveillance Cameras are in place.

We therefore, humbly request that this Federally approved clinic and its program be allowed to fulfill its goal of HELPING the vulnerable population via HARM REDUCTION as well as timely access to HEALTHCARE by breaking the vicious cycle of HEROIN addiction and allowing a complete path to RECOVERY.

Sincerely,

**Zube Khan MD (Derm,Occ-Med,Addiction –
Medicine)**

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:14:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bruce toru kato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bruce Kato

Certified Public Accountant

173 South Kukui Street, 2nd Floor

Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 292-1855

February 7, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to inform whatever interested parties out there that I have had my office situated at the above address for well over six years now doing my practice as a Tax Preparer and Financial Advisor. I deal with roughly two hundred individuals and businesses. The majority of my clients are elderly and somewhat affluent. In all of my years here I have never had a client raise an issue about the presence of Champ Inc. on the ground floor of the building. They have expressed that they are reassured of the safety for themselves and their automobiles parked on the street in front of the building due to the presence of the Security Person provided by the Clinic.

I have personally observed the fact that the Security Person hired by the Clinic is in place for all of the hours that the Clinic is servicing patients. His job is to insure that the patients don't loiter or congregate, they are there to dose, see their counselor and then leave the area. He also oversees the patients so that there is no interaction with any non-clinic personnel or any of the school students or staff. It is unfortunate, but true that the Clinic's patients are not the best our society has to offer but the Clinic does it best to insure that there is no negative impact upon our surrounding community by providing the Security Person as well as the Staff's in counseling the patients attempt to instruct them that they must avoid all adverse contact with our neighbors.

As I have stated there is no question in my mind that my clients are safe and secure when visiting my office. If there was ever a doubt in my mind or any incident where a client felt uncomfortable I would seriously consider it. After doing my clients returns for some 27 years now they are more than clients I feel like they are family and I would never want a family member to feel uncomfortable while visiting me.

Very Truly Yours,

Bruce Kato

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 10:30:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Kuhaulua	Champ Clinic	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern

This Testimony is in opposition to bill #1623. The Bill as it pertained to Drug Dealers and 750Ft from schools was a great thing. It now seems that our clinic is being targeted with the amended bill to add rehabilitation centers. As a mother myself I can understand concern with the unknown. I am going to reiterate a few key factors that my colleague touched on

1. Our Clinic has been at its same location for 27 years, opened and helping this community for 31,
2. We are directly under the watch full eye and in good standing with the FDA and CARF
3. We have 24-hour surveillance cameras on all sides of building including walkway of the school side.
4. In all these years we have had not one formal complaint or report made against us by school and or their faculty.
5. We have security present for clinic hours which are from 5:30am to 11:30am.

6. Clients undergo extensive counseling and must meet requirements to even be considered for additional take home medication. Most clients come to clinic daily for their medication.
7. Our clients have to have 3 months of clean urinalysis testing to get just 1 additional take home. It takes years of maintaining a sober lifestyle to be able to gain a 6-day prescription.
8. Urinalysis testing is observed by a Lab Tech and extensive testing is done by one of the most reputable labs in the state of Hawaii.

Our location here at champ is a vital for the recovery of our patients. A fair number of them have some form of disability and need to be close to bus stops, Government and state offices as well as the major hospitals

Aside from these very important factors I would like to give a little insight to the opioid crisis we face today which is getting worse and why

our clinic and its location is key for this fight. Today's data represents a steady slowing of the rate of increase in overdose deaths for the tenth month in a row, and a decrease in 12-month rolling totals for the fifth month in a row. There has been a 2.57% decrease from the 110,315 fatal drug overdoses provisionally estimated for the 12-month period ending March 2022. It is so important that we here in Hawaii come

up with solutions and reach as many people as we can to help combat this very sad situation before we become like the the other 49 states.

Champ clinic is here and always has been to help our community, help over 3,000 of our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and children see a

way other than Jails institutions and Death. We also take part in the education and support of thousands of family members including those who come from the mainland seeking guidance on how to love support and get through this together as a family. Grandmothers with their grandsons and Fathers for their Daughters. Please reconsider this bill and our involvement in it. We are a much-needed service. We have been helping thousands of addicts beat this crisis, and we would love the support to continue this fight

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 11:20:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayman El Dakhakhni	Champ Clinic	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

This testimony is in regards to HB 378. Some key changes were made to this bill which seem to specifically target our business. We are the only methadone clinic within 750ft from a school and as such our Honolulu clinic alone would be targeted by this bill and action. The 750ft law was originally put into place for Drug Dealers not for recovery clinics. However, it seems this new bill directly impedes the operation of our rehabilitation center.

To begin, our Methadone clinic has been in operation for the past 30 years, and at this location for the past 26 years. Our facility has helped over 3000 clients on their way to recovery. We are licensed and certified by the State of Hawai‘i and CARF and we are heavily regulated by the DEA. We are in good standing and have been so for the past 30 years.

Bill HB378 seems to specifically target CHAMP Clinic Honolulu due to its location. As stated earlier we have been in operation in good standing for the past 30 years.

1. During that time there have been no documented cases of clients interacting with schools or students in the vicinity or on school grounds.
2. The clinic is in operation from 6:30AM to 12:30AM and clients are monitored by a security guard. We are only open 12 hours concurrently with school hours.
3. We have installed 24 Hr surveillance cameras which are independently monitored. The sidewalk in front of and on the side of the clinic as well as the school side walk are monitored with cameras that record and maintain footage for 90 days at a time. They have been in position for the last 15 years.
4. We have a security guard that monitors the sidewalk in front of the building as well as across the street including the school sidewalk. He is sitting on the school sidewalk. No client is allowed to loiter around the building, across the street, or near the school. The security guard sitting on the school sidewalk does not allow any of our clients to loiter or stand on the sidewalk. This policy has been maintained for the last 15 years.
5. Patients dose at the clinic under the supervision of a doctor and a nurse. None of our patients are allowed take home doses unless they demonstrate clean U/A’s for at least six months. This is strictly regulated by the DEA.
6. The take home doses are in clear liquid form in small sealed bottles. Liquid doses make it much harder to sell to a second party unlike some physician offices that might prescribe a 30 day dose in pill form which are much more easily sold on the black market.

1. Our location is of utmost importance as we are conveniently located amid all major bus lines. We are within 2 blocks of major hospitals and government assistance facilities. It is extremely important for us to maintain this location for the convenience and ease of access for our clients.
2. Many of our clients are disabled and require easy access from bus service lines.
3. It is our belief that removal of our clinic from this location would make it difficult for our clients to receive recovery services. This would force them back onto the streets rather than remaining in treatment.
4. Forcing the clinic to move its location would cause a huge financial hardship for our business which could prohibit our business from existing. We believe that we should be granted a grandfathered position.
5. In addition, if the clinic were to be moved, it would cause great hardship to the business. I would like to bring to the attention of the committee that we own our clinic which we bought five years ago at 3%. If we were to purchase another building we would be exposed to the high price of current interest rates which is approximately 8% for commercial properties. If we were to rent, it would be nearly impossible to find a lease or a landlord who will not be pressured to move us. In the first four years on Oahu, we had to move four times due to pressure from landlords. And in Maui in the first three years we had to move three times, due to pressure from the landlords. This put tremendous pressure on us and our clients, but to keep peace we were forced to move.
6. It is our opinion that major development occurring in the surrounding area may be influencing policy to specifically target and remove our clinic because they feel it might lower property values. It seems to be a case of “not in my neighborhood” when it comes to substance abuse rehabilitation. In the past, the outskirts of downtown Honolulu remained underdeveloped. We built our business in this area to serve the underprivileged who were neglected for so many years. We have operated successfully for the past 26 years serving the people of this community. In recent years, big business seeking to install luxury condominiums, have specifically targeted our business because it does not fit in with their vision of luxury living. If big business gets its way, our clients, the silent underprivileged, would suffer and they would be the one to pay the price. We are their voice and we will fight to have their needs met. We are not in business to satisfy the concerns of luxury condo owners. We seek to help the underprivileged citizens who need a helping hand on their path to recovery.
7. We would also like to bring to the attention of the committee that this bill is against federal law as Methadone Clinics are protected from discriminatory zoning under the ADA. I would like to remind the committee that every time this has gone to court in other states (New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Maryland etc.) the federal court sided with the methadone clinic against discriminatory zoning and prohibition of federally protected citizens from receiving treatment. People with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) have a disability and they are protected from discrimination by the American Disability Act ADA. They must be allowed to take their medication in a federally approved facility which is accessible to them. Passing this law would be in violation of the American Disability Act. We are protected and our clients are protected by the Federal Government

We would like to humbly submit this testimony to the House in regards to our opposition of bill HB378 as we feel this bill specifically targets our business and clients receiving substance abuse rehabilitation services.

Thank you

Mohamed El-Dakhkhni

President Champ Inc.

CHAMPCLINICS™

To Whom it may concern,


My Name is Lane Lee. I am a counselor at Champ Clinic. I have worked for champ for almost 2 yrs. I'm writing this letter in regards to a specific bill that is trying to get passed which would force champ clinic to move and relocate, somewhere probably far and out of the way from its current location.

Basically the bill points to champ clinic being to close to the middle school across the street . It is obvious that certain individuals and organizations believe champ clinic may pose some type of threat or danger. This idea is incorrect. One, the school itself doesn't consider us a danger, and when asked, verbally confirmed, even to the point of not knowing we existed across the street.

Secondly, we have a caring and capable security guard, who literally sits across the street up against the fence separating the school grounds and the city and county sidewalk. For years he has specifically been posted there making sure our clients stay on Champ's side of the street. He's posted there from the time we open to well after we close, periodically patrolling the school side of the sidewalk, making sure our clients are not loitering across the street, and also cleans any rubbish throughout his shift.

Third, my son used to be a student at that middle school between the years of 2017-2018. My schedule permitted me to personally be able to pick up my son from school almost everyday. I say this because for the two years my son attended that specific middle school and daily I would pick him up afterschool, that I myself and including my son, had no idea there was a methadone clinic across the street. There was absolutely no indication that a methadone clinic existed across the street, nor did I ever hear talk of such a one among my fellow parents. Also, I never heard my son and his friends ever mention or show any signs of having any knowledge of such a place across the street. I can honestly say that at no point did my son and I ever feel or experience any type of danger or threat due to the Clinics close proximity.

Lastly, the ones who will suffer the most from this move would be our clients. A large percentage our clients are homeless, living in the surrounding area. They would greatly be affected by no longer being in close proxcimity to the clinic, having no consistent access to proper transportation, and so would the ability to properly access our much needed services. Also, I personally know that a lot of my clients doctors, Therapists, Psychs, and other important appointments are all located near the clinic, which makes our location valuable and reachable to them. Moving this clinic would cause a shockwave that this community, in my opinion, would feel in a very negative way. Without Champ here, there would be hundreds of opiate addicts left with a very unaccessible way to receive their medication, and so eventually drifting back to the familiar once again, which for them is Heroin and other illicit narcotics. Those said narcotics are obviously not covered by their insurances , unlike the methadone which is, and so turning to crime to fund such purchaces of illegal substances. That would set off a chain of events which will undoubtedly cause the crime rate to spike, and that will then pose a real and immediate danger to that specific middle school.

counselor, Lane Lee


A. Leanne Simon

REGARDING: SB983 and HB378 impact on CHAMP Clinic.

9 February 2023

My name is Leanne Simon, and I am one of the counselors at CHAMP Clinic, located at 173 S. Kukui St., District 13, Honolulu, HI 96813. I have lived and worked in harm reduction and addictions services in District 13 since 2020, and in organizations providing services to underrepresented residents nationally and internationally since 2009. This testimony is written on behalf of the clients¹, staff (including myself), and owner of CHAMP Clinic.

CHAMP Clinic has been in business for over 30 years, with 28 of those years in its current location. We have recently been re-certified with CARF, and remain in good standing with the FDA and DEA, and are fully licensed as a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Clinic/Methadone Clinic with the State of Hawaii. Our facility has helped over 3500 people on Oahu, and even more in our Maui location. This bill, like others before it, seeks to single out specifically and unfairly target our clinic as it is the only one of its kind in the state that is within 750 feet of a school.

To challenge this discriminatory bill and request its immediate dismissal, I present the following:

1. CHAMP Clients are required to submit to multiple, random urine-analysis drug screenings per month. These tests must prove the presence of methadone at levels appropriate to their prescribed doses and the *absence of all other drugs* for no fewer than 6 months, as well as approval from their counselor, before take-home doses are allowed. This privilege is immediately revoked should a test come back unsatisfactory.
2. Each dose is strictly regulated by the DEA, and each has a unique "signature" that can be traced back to the point of production and sale. This means that doses are easily traced by lot number. We have never had a complaint from the DEA - demonstrating that any methadone diverted into the community has not come from a patient at our clinic.
3. CHAMP employs a security guard that monitors the area all along the block between the clinic and the school. He ensures that clients remain on the clinic side of the street, and enforces our zero tolerance presence on school side rule that has been in place for nearly 20 years. CHAMP also has 24-hour, independently monitored, surveillance cameras installed that record all activity on the front and sides of the clinic building, as well as capturing activity on the school sidewalk. Footage is held securely, off-site, for a minimum of 90 days.
4. In the 28 years that CHAMP has been at this location, we haven't had any official complaint from the school about any of our practices, procedures, nor people. In fact, most at the school do *not even know we are here* (see their testimony regarding this).

¹ Clients also provided handwritten submissions. Please see addendum at the end of this testimony.

5. CHAMP's current location is of the utmost importance to deliver services as:

- a) We are at the epicenter of public transportation; 95% of the public bus routes for the entire island have stops within one city block of our front door. Most of our clients are living on limited incomes and rely heavily on public transportation. Additionally, many have some form of physical or cognitive disability and proximity to bus stops is crucial to protecting their right to mobility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- b) Three of the major hospitals on Oahu are within walking distance of the clinic. This means that if, for whatever reason, we are unable to provide dosing services to them, or they are experiencing another urgent medical issue, they can quickly and independently get help without reliance on calling 911, which uses public money to access emergency services.
- c) The clinic is located within a few blocks of the courthouse, probation offices, and other legal aid outlets. This nearness means that there is less recidivism, or return to incarceration, due to unnecessarily missed appointments, thereby saving city and state money. Additionally, the clinic is able to maintain communication with parole officers, et al, regarding progress and potential hurdles they may be facing now or in the future.
- d) We are nearby all the major social service departments. Our clients rely heavily on welfare options such as SNAP/EBT, social security, disability, child care subsidy, and employment services to cover their necessities and train them up on skills necessary to engage positively in our society.
- e) The clinic is nearby other venues that host other addiction services, such as 12-step and other support groups, and intensive outpatient addiction services. Continuity of care is critical, especially in the first few years of recovery to find new ways to get their needs met and prevent bad habits from returning.
- f) As we saw in the 1992 move, and is reflected by other clinics that have been forced to relocate in other areas of the nation, the clinic stands to lose about 50% of our clients in any move- even if just down the block. I saw evidence of this first hand when I was running the syringe exchange for HHHRC. When we moved the outreach van, usually parked at the corner of River and Kukui St., just a few parking spaces down the block, our clients would often miss us, not having seen us just up the road. This is due to the repetitive and habitual nature that is characteristic in addiction.
- g) Fifty percent is a substantial number of people returning to active addiction. Imagine several hundred people relapsing simultaneously, each returning to behaviors that they used in the past- usually illegal, potentially violent, to get the drugs that they need to prevent the onset of withdrawal symptoms. Removal of

the clinic's safe, free alternatives to crime is just a drop in the bucket of social ills possible if this bill passes.

6. Moving the clinic would be too great a financial burden on the clinic owner. When he bought this building nearly 5 years ago, it was at 3% interest rate. The going rate for this area is now at 8%. That is more than double, and creates a substantial financial loss. Renting another space is not an option, as any landlord would be subject to the same social, financial, and now legislative bullying as is being suffered currently by CHAMP. The clinic would be at the mercy of someone unaffiliated to maintain their space. This is highly unlikely, given the amount of pressure put upon CHAMP as it is.
7. If this bill passes, the reality is that the clinic will close, along with its sister clinic in Maui. That means that an untold number of people would be returning to active addiction and all that comes with it. And, as stated earlier, the clinic did not bring the problems here- it came to meet the people where they are at. Removing the clinic will not remove the problem, just one of the solutions. I hardly think that a revival of active addiction, and its attendant crimes against property and person, is what one might call "luxury living".
8. Let's face it- this bill is not about the safety of school children. Nowhere in the bill does it mention anything about safety- only distance. And that is precise to singling out a CHAMP. They think that the clinic is an eyesore and that, by forcing us out, in keeping with their NIMBY ("Not In My Back Yard") stance, they will be able to milk even more money from the bourgeoisie new residents that are willing to pay for downtown "cool" at uptown price points.
9. I have not, in my 15 years in the industry across six countries, seen any wealthy business owner with the same passion and fervor for helping the downtrodden as I have seen in Ayman. Though CHAMP is a for-profit clinic, all services are free for the clients, including pricey urine analysis drug screenings. He does this, not because he is trying to get their vote, or campaign donations, and his wealth is certainly not from these clinics lining his pockets. He does this because it is the right thing to do. Not just for the clients that show up at our door, ravaged by the effects of drugs and life on the streets, trying to find a better way to live- but also for those new residents, the ones that turn their noses up at us - and for the school. Why? Because none among us is too wealthy, too smart, nor too "good" to be affected hell that drug addiction brings.

The wealthy in this area have the option to go to the high-priced doctors operating nearby that offer a month's worth of take-home methadone at a time, with zero oversight, through prescription easily fillable at the pharmacy. But no one is lobbying legislation at them. And why not? Isn't the point of this to protect the community from the possibility of access to controlled substances due to drug diversion? Hardly.

Please consider my testimony carefully, and weigh the actual repercussions of closing CHAMP Clinic should this bill pass. There are serious consequences facing this entire zone should services be cut or displaced for this vulnerable population. Do you want to be one of the ones

responsible for those grim nightly news stories? Or do you want to go to sleep at night knowing that you are on the right side of history?

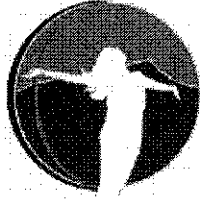
Thank you for your time.

Yours in Service,

A. Leanne Simon
Counselor, CHAMP Clinic
MA – Human Development
MpaCS – Peace & Conflict Studies

ADDENDUM:

In addition to my own testimony, most of the CHAMP clients were eager to add their voices to this discussion. It is, after all, a decision that most impacts them and the direction that their lives might take should this invaluable resource be snatched away. In accordance with HIPAA law, names and identifying information has been redacted, except in the cases we have signed permission to disclose. There are over 100 individual cards by as many clients, completed in handwriting which are being submitted in person by Aisha Esker. I have randomly selected a representative sample of these testimonials, categorized by general topic (as labeled at top of each page).



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that work nearby:

1418

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

CHAMP has been important in
this location as it is close to
my work downtown. I have
worked downtown for 12 years and
have been coming to CHAMP for
12 years as well Bradley Chung

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is very important
for me to get to work on
time this place is perfect
location we need to keep
it open please

B.H.P #640



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

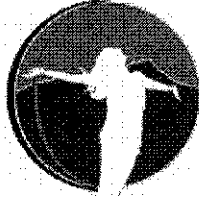
Testimony from clients that work nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I work and
this program
helped me get a
normal life
I like this location
2457 JMS

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Because it keeps me clean
and I have a SOD shop nearby
Jesse
2329



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

#1000

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

This location really matters
to me because I cannot ride
the bus & I have to walk
here close to living. Please

[Signature]

#2383

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

KK

It is easy for me to get to
the bus along with other
services in the area.
Please don't take it away.

Thank You



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
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Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

Leticia Luna 971 2090855

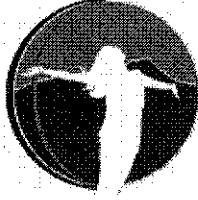
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

we really need to stay
open at this location
I ride the bus here
everyday, I walk here
for so please don't
move our location.

#2288

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

ITS A VERY CONVENIENT LOCATION
FOR ME. I TAKE ONE BUS ROUTE
TO GET HERE WHICH ALLOWS ME
TO SAVE ~~WHATEVER~~ WHATEVER I CAN ON
OTHER NECESSITIES. AFTER WORK
I FINISH IN THE MORNING I COME
STRAIGHT TO THIS LOCATION WHICH
MAKES THINGS ALOT EASIER FOR MY
SCHEDULE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It's convenient for
me. I'm 75 yrs. young &
take the bus from
Kaneohe #101

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It's near all my
other services

Thank you.

2411 J.K.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
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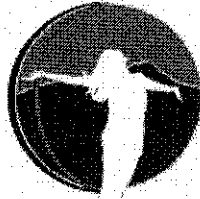
Testimony from clients that use bus service to attend:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

this location is important because
it is so centrally located. I live
in Kalihi and don't drive so my
ride comes from Kalahele
This is the ideal location. The bus
comes right here if I don't get a ride

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is close to rapid transit and
convenient for going to other Dr.'s
appointments. We have come
here for 20+ yrs. Mt 872



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

Client # 2232

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

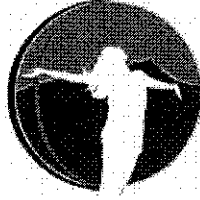
I have appointments at queens
Right After I go to /champs
(almost daily). please dont
move the clinic it will make
it very hard for me to get to
clinic.

JK

#31 KC

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Champ location is convenient
for me because, of its location
I come from Kailua and
I am disable and Champ
is centrally located to my
doctors as well



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

Paula Campos
Paula Campos
808-426-4515

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

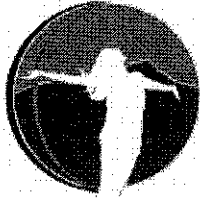
I have regular medical visits near here and I ride the bus to Champ here

PLEASE understand my situation Thank You

1041 EH

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

It is close to the Hospital and other services for us (patients)



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that use nearby medical services:

**It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:**

*it saved my life - its close to
my doctor and I'm a terminal
cancer patient.*



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that work nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Because it keeps me clean
and I have a \$20 now nearby

Jesse
2329

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

It is very important
for me to get to work on
time this place is perfect
location we need to keep
it open please

B. H. P. #640



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JK

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live near here and
would be difficult for
me to move

116

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live here.
A CHAMP has always been here for me
and the location is key. All the people
that work at CHAMP are my friends.
Anywhere else would be a big mistake.
The community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JL

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live near here and
would be difficult for
me to move

116

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live here.
CHAMP has always been here for me
and the location is key. All the people
that work at CHAMP are my friends.
Anywhere else would be a big mistake.
The community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

702 JL

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live near here and
would be difficult for
me to move

116

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live here.
A CHAMP has always been here for me
and the location is key. All the people
that work at CHAMP are my friends.
Anywhere else would be a big mistake,
The community here accepts us. The
security keeps things calm on the block.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

2337

JTM

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Cant afford 2 travel far,
I need my methudone so I
can stay clean.

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live in this area, whether
you like it or not Peoples LIVES
ARE AT STAKE HERE. AND IT IS LIFE
AND DEATH



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

I live close by and
I have a hard time dealing
with it for delay
Mary Lou

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

CHAMP's central location is vital
for the many clients to easily
access its location. Many
of the clinic's clients have
serious mobility issues ~~and~~ & would
face serious difficulties if the
clinic were moved.



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

1750

**It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:**

R. M.

*Close to where I
live*

**It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:**

*It's close to my house and helps me get to
my two jobs quicker. If relocated by the airport,
it would take me almost twice as long to get to
and from the new location (if moved)*



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

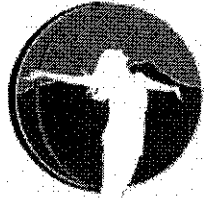
It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

2407 AM
I CAN'T GET AROUND WITHOUT
A WALKER AND IT IS CONVENIENT
I HAVE NO TRANSPORTATION
CHAMP NEEDS TO STAY HERE!

From: 1210 - W-C

It is important to me that CHAMP
stay in its current location because:

Majority of us (1) travel on
foot, (2) come from the other
side of island (3) majority of
us can't afford bus passes,
(4) or we are traveling w/
pain due to injuries in bones.
cannot drive at all but to make
it to this location stay here



CHAMP Clinic

173 Kukui St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-426-4515

Testimony from clients that live nearby:

To whom it may concern:

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because: it is very convenient for me as a disabled person. It is close to all the bus routes and makes it so easy for me to come to this clinic. The other clinic is too far and only 2 buses go that way. This place has saved my life. It would be very upsetting if it were relocated. Please let it stay where it's been for the 20yrs

It is important to me that CHAMP stay in its current location because:

cuz I'm Homeless & I stay
 in downtown

Alana Shipman

Rita Vande Berghe

To whom it may concern,

Champ Clinic is located in the middle downtown Honolulu, especially for drug addicts and homeless population. Since we have numerous parks surrounding us, it is very easy for anyone to walk to. Buses are accessible for anyone who is in need since they can be let off a block away from the clinic no matter where on the island they are coming from.

Also, housing assistance, welfare, Social Security, job training programs, Disability Rights Center, Legal Aid, Queens intensive outpatient services for dual diagnosed individuals, Adult Probation and Parole, Harm Reduction, the major behavioral health services and more that our clients depend on have their offices downtown which makes it easier on our clients to make it to their appointments. Many of our clients live in the area which makes life easier all around because of the clinics central location.

We want our people to live in a community where they feel secure, while at the same time assist them to reduce the harms in their lives which in turn reduces the harms in the community.

Sincerely'

Rita Vande Bergh



-substance abuse counselor, 8 years at Champ Clinics

02/09/2022

To: Whom it may concern
From: HaneefBilal Salahuddin-Abdul Shafiq
RE: CHAMP CLINIC LOCATION

Dear:

In retrospect, I've been employed at CHAMP for over 30 years and we have been at 173 Kukui Street for 28 years. And management has improved the clinic via more staffing, security guard, remodeled the building, etc. Our patients have not caused any problems, a school is located across from us and we had no issues with the school or students. Our patients stay away from the area, which is mandated by CHAMP's owner, any violations will result in patient being discharged.

We have served the community by treating addicts that would be engaging in criminal activities if they weren't being treated for their addiction via CHAMP. Most of our patients are productive, business owners, professionals, laborers, etc.

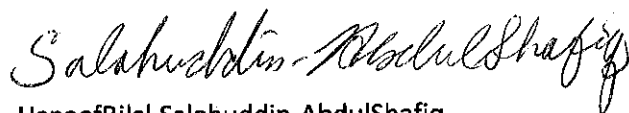
Our location better serves our patients because we are centrally located on the bus line, and in the city where patients can come for treatment and return to work etc. via bus, cab, or walking.

Otherwise, if a location is difficult for them to attend they will return to street drugs and commit crimes, etc. I'm a former prison guard and currently psych social worker for the Women's prison-23 years. And I can safely say, our patients follow clinic rules-have not caused any harm to the community, in fact we have treated and continue to treat people who would otherwise be incarcerated, sick, or dead. Via treatment most of them are able to live normal lives, and others we are assisting with establishing a positive life. Removing CHAMP from current location will have a detrimental effect on the community

Our patients are referred to psychologists/psychiatrists, which are located few blocks from the clinic, so they able to dose and walk a few blocks to their therapists. Most would never make their appointments if they had to travel to another location.

For further information please contact me at the following number: 808 722 4678.

Sincerely,



HaneefBilal Salahuddin-AbdulShafiq

MA, Sociology



Aisha Esker <aishachamphon@gmail.com>

Fwd: CHAMP Clinic

Mohamed Ayman El-Dakhakhni

<aymand5000@gmail.com>

To: Aisha Esker <aishachamphon@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 8, 2023

at 7:54 PM

Another one

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Johnny Hawkins <johnnyhawkins@yahoo.com>**Date:** February 8, 2023 at 7:47:02 PM HST**To:** aymand5000@gmail.com**Subject: CHAMP Clinic****Reply-To:** "johnnyhawkins@yahoo.com"

<johnnyhawkins@yahoo.com>

From: Johnny Hawkins

98-1284 B Hoohiki Plc

Pearl City, HI 96782

To: Whom It May Concern

It has come to my attention that CHAMP Clinic is being asked to relocate. As a former Counselor and Administrator for the clinic from 1996-2001, I respectfully have some comments and concerns.

I am over 32 years clean and sober from being a former addict and alcoholic. I worked at the clinic in order to help others get through what I had myself gone through, and I indeed wanted to make

meaningful contributions to society. Indeed we helped so many individuals. I physically helped them move into the current location. The clinic is perfectly placed to aid so many individuals in need from that exact same downtown and surrounding areas. We were good neighbors in that community and never received complaints from the nearby school. I have remained in touch because of the mentorship I received from the staff and management. I am aware that security guards have remained outside of the clinic to facilitate proper community relations for the past approximate 20 years.

I therefore request that the clinic remain in place as such. I have a business of my own for the past 27 years and I am a man of faith. I ask you, why not let CHAMP Clinic remain and serve? My phone number is 808-256-0713. If you would like to authenticate or have questions, please call.

Aloha.



Johnny Hawkins

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



February 8, 2023

In re, Letter in Support of 173 S. Kukui St (Champ Clinic/Ayman El-Dakhakhni)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Ayman El-Dakhakhni and his commercial property located at 173 S. Kukui Street (dba Champ Clinic).

I have known Mr. El-Dakhakhni for many years. In recent years I have been involved in several projects (Architectural Design & Construction) with him. Some of those projects involved design work and renovations/upgrades at 173 S. Kukui, the location of Champ Clinic which occupies the lower level.

I can tell you this with absolute certainty. Mr. El-Dakhakhni goes to great measures to ensure the security of his property and the surrounding properties, especially as it pertains to the Patients of Champ Clinic. I have visited the site dozens of times in the last few years, and not once – not a single time – have I encountered any issues with the Champ Clinic Patients that utilize the clinic. Not once has a Patient in the vicinity asked for a cigarette (for example), nor attempted to engage me, harass me, let alone present a threat. In fact, when I usually arrive and there may be a few Patients awaiting their appointment outside, they even move out of the way. I can say that none of my associates (ie contractors, inspectors, etc) ever experienced an issue there. Quite frankly, I was personally surprised at how well managed the security of the property, it's patients, and it's passersby.

Mr. El-Dakhakhni always has at least one or two security personnel who keep close eye on the goings on at 173 S. Kukui, also ensuring other members of the public are not bothered. He does not allow the Patients to congregate/loiter across the street (along the fence separating Central Intermediate School from the sidewalk on Kukui St. He also makes sure Patients don't park and "camp" around the location.

The same *cannot* be said for *most* other random locations throughout downtown Honolulu. I am often approached or accosted in different parts of downtown, Kakaako, Chinatown at random locations by homeless et al.

(continued on next page)



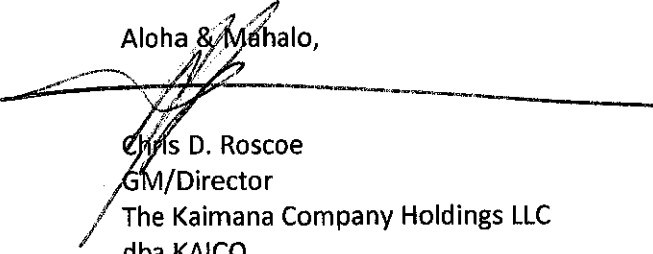
Champ Clinic on the other hand is a necessary and important medical treatment center for those with disabilities (substance abuse) that is well managed and secure. It is also vital to helping to keep crime *down* by treating it's Patients. It has been in that location for more than two decades and is working, with no apparent danger to the public nor school students and staff across the street.

It should also be mentioned that Mr. El-Dakhakhni also spent a great deal of money, effort, and time upgrading the premises, both cosmetically and otherwise. He planted flowers and grass out front, painted the building, and revitalized the site. He cares about 173 S. Kukui Street, he cares about his Patients and Staff, and he cares about the neighborhood and its people.

I urge you *not* to pursue any actions that would require the closure and/or relocation of Champ Clinic and the offices at 173 S. Kukui Street.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (808) 589-8717 or cdr@kaimanacompany.com. I would be happy to testify and/or speak on behalf of my support for Mr. El-Dakhakhni should that be requested.

Aloha & Mahalo,



Chris D. Roscoe
GM/Director
The Kaimana Company Holdings LLC
dba KAICO

CHAMPCLINICS™

We're here for you, because we're here with you.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicholas Cunniff, and I am a substance abuse counselor at C.H.A.M.P. Clinic. Over the two years that I've been working at C.H.A.M.P I've had the honor of being part of an organization that through its services, stands as a pillar of hope to many in the surrounding community it operates. While public awareness of the opioid crisis in Hawaii has grown over the last decade, the reality is that it has existed here for more than 30 years. I mention this because the individuals backing the bill that would require the clinic to relocate are attempting to portray C.H.A.M.P. as being the cause of a problem, when in reality it is the solution. Homelessness, drugs, and degeneration, had been an issue in the downtown/Fort Street Mall area long before the clinic's arrival. When serving a client population where 50% are homeless, special consideration with respect to limited and reduced accessibility must be made. The clinic's founders chose to move the clinic to its current location because it was at the heart of the issue, where it was needed most, and could help more individuals, many of whom have limited ability to commute. Harm reduction is built on the foundational principle of "meeting people where they're at". At C.H.A.M.P, this phrase holds true in both the figurative and literal sense..

Sincerely,



Nicholas Cunniff,

Substance Abuse Counselor

C.H.A.M.P. Clinics

CHAMPCLINICS™

We're here for you, because we're here with you.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.
2/8/2023

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Natasha Silva and I've been employed at CHAMP Clinic as an intake coordinator and counselor for one year. In this short time, I have seen hundreds of clients walk through our doors. The current location for CHAMP Clinic is important because it services Chinatown and its surrounding areas. This area is home to many of our housed and unhoused clients.

This location is not only a convenient location for them to receive methadone dosing, but the clinic is also located near major bus lines, three area hospitals, courthouses, probation offices, and other social service agencies our clientele must have access to. Moving locations is not an option, as it would displace our clients, and leave them at a disadvantage should they need to access these agencies. Our population also requires routine to keep up with their daily dosing. They do not need a reason to discontinue use or abandon their required dosing maintenance.

CHAMP Clinic continues to uphold measures to ensure the area around the clinic is safe. This includes security cameras around the perimeter of the clinic, as well as having a security guard stationed across the street at the middle school. I have a close friend who is employed at the middle school, who wasn't aware we were located across the street until I informed her. CHAMP Clinic didn't bring problems to the neighborhood, there were already issues present. Our current location is vital for the healing of our stigmatized community members.



To Whom it May Concern,

I have been employed by CHAMP Clinic for over 4 years now. This location is vital to the community as the majority of our clients are centrally located, and we make it easy for them to access services.

All the major bus routes stop within a couple blocks of the clinic. Also, most major medical facilities are within walking distance from CHAMP.

Our clients do not do well with change. If you change our location, after being here for nearly 30 years, it would be a major shock for most of them. Our clients will be lost in this community without us here to help guide them to their appointments, which are centrally located.

We are working hard to make this community a better place for all to share, work, live, and play in. Relocating our clinic would be disastrous for all parties here. Crime would increase.

Our clinic would best serve our community if it is to stay in its location, where it has been for nearly three decade. Change would do more harm than good to this community. We love this community and care for it to the best of our abilities. To change that would be harmful to the people we serve and we are here for the people who need help. So help us help them, by not making big changes to their lives.

Sincerely,

Brian Peroff

Lab Tech / Receptionist

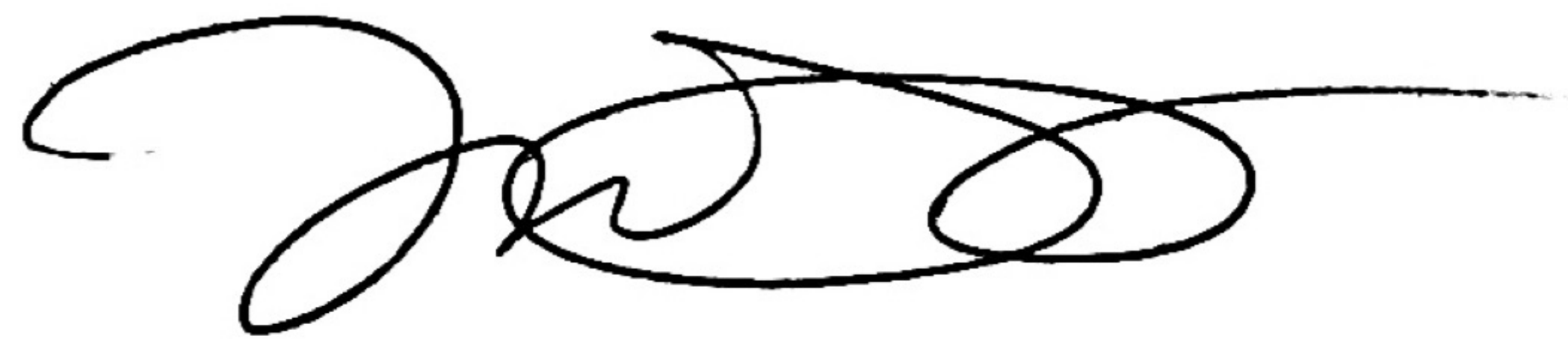
Brian Peroff

February 7, 2023

Being employed at CHAMP Clinic for 21 years; this location is very convenient for our clients. Everything is within walking distance for them such as post office, banks, stores, & the courthouse. Where we can help our clients when they have to appear in court, and need us to speak on their behalf. Or have appointments with their P.O. everything is nearby for us to help them.

Few of our clients used to live/hang out in the park behind the fire station on Pali/Beretania; because of resources that are close by they now have housing and no longer live at the park. And with respect to our neighbors we ensure that our Security person duties includes keeping our client away from the school area, and not loiter around businesses next to our clinic.

Being centrally located the bus stop is just around the corner which is very good especially for clients who travel from the West & Leeward side of the island. Also few of our clients who have to travel from the North Shores , and the windwaed side.



Marie Paishon
Program Director
CHAMP Clinic

To Whom It May Concern

This Testimony is in opposition to HB378. The Bill as it pertained to Drug Dealers and 750Ft from schools was a great thing. It now seems that our clinic is being targeted with the amended bill to add rehabilitation centers. As a mother myself I can understand concern with the unknown. I am going to reiterate a few key factors that my colleague touched on

1. Our Clinic has been at its same location for 27 years, opened and helping this community for 31,
2. We are directly under the watch full eye and in good standing with the FDA and CARF
3. We have 24-hour surveillance cameras on all sides of building including walkway of the school side.
4. In all these years we have had not one formal complaint or report made against us by school and or their faculty.
5. We have security present for clinic hours which are from 5:30am to 11:30am.
6. Clients undergo extensive counseling and must meet requirements to even be considered for additional take home medication. Most clients come to clinic daily for their medication.
7. Our clients have to have 3 months of clean urinalysis testing to get just 1 additional take home. It takes years of maintaining a sober lifestyle to be able to gain a 6-day prescription.
8. Urinalysis testing is observed by a Lab Tech and extensive testing is done by one of the most reputable labs in the state of Hawaii. Our location here at champ is a vital for the recovery of our patients. A fair number of them have some form of disability and need to be close to bus stops, Government and state offices as well as the major hospitals

Aside from these very important factors I would like to give a little insight to the opioid crisis we face today which is getting worse and why our clinic and its location is key for this fight. Today's data represents a steady slowing of the rate of increase in overdose deaths for the tenth month in a row, and a decrease in 12-month rolling totals for the fifth month in a row. There has been a 2.57% decrease from the 110,315 fatal drug overdoses provisionally estimated for the 12-month period ending March 2022. It is so important that we here in Hawaii come up with solutions and reach as many people as we can to help combat this very sad situation before we become like the other 49 states .There is another way!!, we are showing families a way other than Jails institutions and Death. We also take part in the education and support of thousands of family members including those who come from the mainland seeking guidance on how to love support and get through this together as a family. Grandmothers with their grandsons and Fathers for their Daughters. Please reconsider this bill and our involvement in it. We are a much-needed service. We have been helping thousands of addicts beat this crisis, and we would love the support to continue this fight

Respectfully,

Jaime Kuhaulua



Aloha, my name is Casey Obatake, and I work at AOA Capitol Place. This is a luxury condominium located at 1200 Queen Emma Street. I have been employed here since March 2022 and within this time, we have at least two (2) people per day from the methadone clinic located in the building next to ours causing disruptions to our common areas. We have encountered violent behavior between their clients. The clients are loitering, trespassing, and harassing residents, and staff. Clients also have been observed defecating on our grounds. The most recent incident, someone from the methadone clinic walked by our trash bin and set it on fire. Fortunately, the fire department responded quickly to extinguish it so there were no major damages, but it could have been worse.

I support House Bill 378 that requires the methadone clinics and substance use disorder services clinic to be deemed a clinic and for the handling of controlled substances to be contingent upon its location being at least 750 feet away from a school. With Ruth Ke'elikolani Middle school and Saint Andrews Prior being less than 750 feet away, this causes a lot of concern. Pre-teen students should not have to be exposed to this type of environment and it is not safe for them when they are walking to and from school each day.

I know having a methadone clinic does help individuals who are trying to make a difference in their lives, but I recommend having this facility closer to other Human services facilities. A lot of the individuals visiting the clinic are homeless so relocating the clinic near the Institute for Human Services (IHS) is a solution.

Again, I support HB378 prohibiting the promoting of a controlled substance within 750 feet of a school.

Mahalo,

Casey Obatake

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 4:24:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Davis	Capitol Place	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Garrett Davis and I work at AOA Capitol Place, adjacent to the Champ Clinic which is located directly across the street from Ke'elikolani Middle School. The staff of Capitol Place are regularly required to address patients of the methadone clinic who wander into the property lines to utilize and distribute illegal substances, construct shelter and defecate in the landscaping perimeter of the property, and regularly contact the Honolulu Police Department to request the uncooperative departure of aggressive, combatitive, and intoxicated persons. These events are largely observable from the schoolyard playground and classroom windows of the Ke'elikolani Middle School, and are not conducive to a safe or healthy learning environment for our keiki. I support HB378 requiring methadone clinics and substance use disorder services to be contingent upon its location being at least 750 feet away from schools. Mahalo.

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 5:30:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Milton Miyasato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 Ruth Ke'elikolani 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 HB378 prohibiting the promoting of a controlled substance within 750 feet of a school.

Mahalo,

Milton Miyasato, ARM

February 9, 2023

Chairman Representative Della Au Bellati
Vice Chair Representative Jenna Takenouchi
Committee on Health & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 378 RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Hearing Date: February 10, 2023
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Representatives Au Bellati and Takenouchi and fellow committee members:

I submit this testimony in favor of H.B. 378 to amend various sections of HRS Chapter 329.

The establishment of a boundary of seventy hundred fifty (750) feet that clinics must be located from schools is a good amendment. The uncomfortable reality is that clinics providing controlled substances attract individuals who are struggling with relapse. The uncomfortable truth is also that recovery and relapse is two sides of the same coin for some individuals. Relapsing individuals also bring with them criminal conduct or behavior that children should not have to witness on a daily basis as they walk to and from school.

The establishment of a seven hundred fifty foot boundary is well established by existing statutes as a reasonable boundary to protect our children. *See* HRS §§ 329D-22, 712-1209, and 712-1249.6

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sunny Lee

HB-378

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 7:31:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Castner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Representative Sakai's hard work to get the Champ methadone clinic in our neighborhood moved away from its close proximity to schools. I have lived in the Capitol Place condominiums for 5 years and was very surprised upon move in to discover a clinic such as this, with "interesting" clients, located in such close proximity to surrounding schools. I soon discovered many Champ clients like to sleep, hang out, park, etc. on the sidewalk across the street from the clinic which is immediately adjacent to school property. I do not understand why this is allowed. The Champ clinic needs to move asap.