



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1433 SD1**  
**RELATING TO HARM REDUCTION.**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025 @ 10:01 AM

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** none.

2 **Department Position:** The Department SUPPORTS this measure to improve the effectiveness of  
3 the State's syringe exchange program and respectfully requests amendments.

4 **Department Testimony:** For more than thirty years, Hawaii's state-funded syringe exchange  
5 program has improved public health by reducing the incidence of bloodborne infections related  
6 to injection drug use and has been effective in supporting people who inject drugs to improve  
7 their health. Syringe exchange programs prevent HIV, hepatitis C, and other bloodborne  
8 infections, are cost effective, reduce drug use and drug overdoses, protect the public and first  
9 responder by providing safe syringe disposal, and do not cause or increase illegal drug use or  
10 other crime. While syringe exchange has been a highly effective public health intervention in  
11 Hawai'i, the statutory changes proposed in this measure would allow critical improvements,  
12 increasing the effectiveness and impact of the program.

13 The most important provision in this bill would permit the program to change from a strict one-  
14 to-one exchange model to a need-based distribution model. In the decades since the Hawai'i  
15 program began, research has found that one-to-one exchange is less effective than needs-  
16 based syringe distribution. Beginning in 2020, CDC has supported needs-based approaches to  
17 syringe distribution because they are more effective in reducing new HIV and viral hepatitis

1 infections as compared to restrictive one-to-one distribution. Under the current strict one-to-  
2 one model, the syringe exchange must restrict syringe access by limiting the number of sterile  
3 syringes and needles an individual can receive to the number of used syringes and needles they  
4 have to return. Some syringes exchange participants, despite making a concerted effort to  
5 reduce their risk of contracting or transmitting bloodborne infections by accessing syringe  
6 exchange, are left without enough syringes and needles to use new sterile equipment each  
7 time they inject. The syringe exchange program is required to refuse syringes and needles to  
8 program participants whose syringes and needles have been lost, stolen, or confiscated.  
9 Restricting access to syringes and needles in this way does not prevent people from injecting  
10 drugs, it simply prevents them from using sterile equipment. Once common, one-to-one  
11 syringe exchange program across the country have transitioned to needs-based models. The  
12 only U.S. states that still impose strict one-to-one limits on syringe exchange are Florida and  
13 Hawai'i.

14 While the current statute permits the syringe exchange program to provide sterile syringes and  
15 needles, this measure would also permit distribution of other items used in the preparation and  
16 consumption of illegal drugs, when the department determines that distributing such items is  
17 important for preventing injury, transmission of bloodborne infections, overdose and death.

18 This measure would also provide limited legal protections to ensure that program staff have  
19 adequate legal protections for performing their job duties and to provide legal protection to  
20 program participants to bring used injection equipment to the program for proper disposal.

21 **Offered Amendments:**

22 The department requests the following amendments that incorporate input from law  
23 enforcement and other stakeholders and are intended to more effectively support the public  
24 health objectives of this measure without providing more legal liability protections than  
25 warranted.

1 **I. Narrow the liability protection for “authorized objects” (drug paraphernalia) and remove**  
2 **rule making requirement:**

3 Delete the protection for program participants and provide protection only to program staff  
4 acting in the course and scope of official duties to possess and distribute “authorized objects”  
5 determined by the department to be to be necessary for the prevention of infection or injury.  
6 Although possession of drug paraphernalia is a violation and no longer a criminal offense, it is  
7 critical to permit program staff to posses and distribute these object that are otherwise  
8 unlawful.

9 With the more narrow liability protection for “authorized objects” the department requests the  
10 authority to determine the “authorized objects” without rule making so that the department  
11 can add and remove authorized objects more quickly to effectively respond to emerging  
12 substance use trends and public health issues. Syringe exchange is operated under a Purchase  
13 of Service contract, giving the department a legal mechanism for specifying and limiting the  
14 objects that the program could distribute.

15 **Amendments:**

- 16 1. Page 5, line 18: delete “, by rule,”
- 17 2. Page 10, lines 5-8: delete “Possession of authorized objects shall  
18 not constitute an offense under section 329-43.5 for  
19 syringe exchange participants participating in a program  
20 visit.”
- 21 3. Page 10, line 8: delete “, by rule,”

22 **II. Revise definition of “Residue” and narrow the liability protection:**

23 Syringe “dead space” is the difference between the amount of fluid drawn up in a syringe and  
24 the amount that can be expelled. Dead space varies by syringe size, type, and manufacturer.  
25 Any volume-based definition may be either too small or two large for the purpose of protecting

1 a program participant to possess used syringes for the purpose of returning them to the  
2 program for proper disposal without providing unintended protection for participants to  
3 possess usable amounts of drug. The department proposes a definition below that more  
4 precisely reflects the intent of this provision and would be easier for both law enforcement and  
5 program participants to assess.

6 In addition, following input from law enforcement, the department requests the that  
7 timeframe during which this protection would apply be shortened.

8 Amendments:

9 1. Page 6, lines 12-14, change to definition of "residue" to:

10 "Residue" means controlled substance as that term is  
11 defined in section 329-1, in the amount remaining in a  
12 syringe and needle after the plunger stopper is fully  
13 depressed.

14 2. page 10, line 15, change "... six months..." to "... two months...".

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



HAWAI'I HEALTH &  
HARM REDUCTION CENTER

677 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 226  
Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 521-2437  
[www.hhhrc.org](http://www.hhhrc.org)

*"Reducing harm,  
promoting health,  
creating wellness, and  
fighting stigma  
in Hawai'i and  
the Pacific."*

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1433 SD1

**TO:** Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, & JDS Committee Members

**FROM:** Heather Lusk, Executive Director

**DATE:** February 19, 2025 (10:00 AM)

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Aloha,

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **strongly supports** HB 1433 SD1, which better aligns the state's syringe services program with best practices, including the repeal of a one-to-one limit outlined in the enabling statute (HRS §325-111 *et seq.*). The changes in this bill will help better facilitate harm reduction services delivery across the state.

Syringe access is a critical component of the state's longstanding public health-centered approach to HIV and other infectious diseases, including viral hepatitis. For over three decades, Hawai'i's statewide syringe services program has effectively kept HIV transmission rates low among persons who use drugs and their intimate partners. The program currently operates through mobile units, appointments, and fixed sites on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. Participants have access to overdose prevention supplies, safer sex supplies, no-cost HIV and HCV screenings and follow-up care, and referrals that can assist with access to medical insurance and sustained medical care, including behavioral health treatment.

The latest annual report, required by law, [may be found on our website](#). As the report notes, the program "continues to find innovative ways to provide needed services in the field. [In] August 2021, HHHRC launched its [Medical Mobile Unit](#), bringing quality on-the-spot medical care and social services directly to underserved communities throughout O'ahu, such as HIV and HCV testing, wound care, naloxone training, and syringe exchange."

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:44:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Detwiler	Testifying for Hawaiian Islands Republican Women	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaiian Islands Republican Women stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB1433 SD1.

We oppose any bill or law that would encourage illegal drug use and one that would perpetuate harmful addiction.

We do not want Hawaii to become like other cities such as San Francisco who have implemented similar programs and turned their once beautiful city into decrepit, lawless, unsafe, and filthy environment.

Please vote **NO** on SB1433 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jamie Detwiler, President

Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:35:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Santos	Testifying for Calvary Chapel Westside	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am asking you on behalf of the keiki and families of Hawaii to OPPOSE SB1433.

Taking a simple and honest look at the TERRIBLE conditions that have resulted from such laws being passed in other states and counties, those that have adopted similar laws and the results of all that has happened in them destroying the beauty of once beautiful cities like Seattle and San Francisco, and others.

Such places have become dangerous and dirty at many different levels. Ask any drug addict if access to needles will encourage their addiction and they will tell you YES. And they will not care where that used needle ends up afterwards, from the foot of a child in the beach, or digging in the dirt in a park. This is DANGEROUS BILL.

I cannot understand anyone anyone voting us on a bill like this that puts the "care" of IV Drug Users above the potential risks for our Keiki, and the public. Not to mention encouraging drug use in our streets.

This bill of passed would be a gift to drug dealers and addicts alike.

Addicts need help and treatment to stop using. They do not need easier access to drugs and the paraphernalia used to take them.

It is clear that the people of Hawaii, EVERYONE THAT I KNOW, we do not want our beautiful state to follow the same road to destruction that we have seen in other states where drug use has been made easier.

Thank you,

Pastor Steve Santos

Lahaina



## **SB1433 SD1 Harm Reduction Increase Needles and Syringes**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 20, 2025: 10:01: Room 016 Videoconference

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1433 SD1:**

*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-oriented services.*

Yes, increasing the number of sterile needles provided in harm reduction programs is generally a “very good” practice. Providing more than one needle per person helps reduce the risk of needle sharing, which lowers the transmission of bloodborne infections like HIV and hepatitis C. It also ensures that individuals have access to clean supplies when they need them, reducing unsafe reuse.

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*A needs-based exchange will reduce communicable diseases, and also ensure that other needed services are addressed, such as motivating people to address chronic substance abuse, mental health disorders, and untreated chronic physical health conditions as well as help people suffering from homelessness to engage in housing options.*

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Many harm reduction programs in other states already distribute multiple needles at a time, along with other supplies like alcohol swabs, sterile water, and disposal containers. Expanding access to these resources aligns with public health goals by promoting safer practices and reducing the burden of preventable diseases on healthcare systems.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:33:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Ybanez	Testifying for Kalihi Palama NB # 15	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:18:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Enoka-Shayne Bingo	Testifying for One of We, the People	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Sterile Needle Project and safe zone for non-injected drugs program has created a slough of overactive drug use in these designated areas and the surrounding areas in the Honolulu/town vicinity. Encouraging this project/program and public display of drug usage is unbecoming of the State and stronger deterrents should be implemented, not encouraged. This program is counterintuitive to any goal of reducing the drug epidemic, creating safe allowable programs has incited a fentanyl and opioid epidemic like never before and for this reason, I OPPOSE furthering any drug use epidemics and programs that allow our people to continue on a path of drug use. Fentanyl only takes one pill to overdose and is wiping out an entire generation. Be mindful of the root cause, legislators. Fix the root cause, don't allow the deflect.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:58:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose and strongly urge this committee to **VOTE NO** on SB1433 SD1, which, under the guise of harm reduction, threatens to dismantle public safety, community health, and moral responsibility in Hawaii by adopting practices that have proven problematic elsewhere.

**Public Safety at Risk:** The transition to a needs-based distribution of needles, as proposed in this bill, mirrors policies in cities like San Francisco where the result has been a dramatic increase in needle litter. San Francisco's streets have become notorious for this issue, creating a public health nightmare with needles found in parks and playgrounds. Do we want our beautiful Hawaiian beaches and community spaces to suffer the same fate?

**Encouraging Drug Use:** By expanding the program to include non-injection drug users and providing immunity for drug residue, this bill echoes initiatives in Massachusetts where critics argue that removing the physical deterrents of drug use has led to an increase in drug abuse. The philosophy of harm reduction here seems to morph into harm perpetuation, signaling to addicts that their behavior is not only tolerated but implicitly supported.

**Legal Loopholes and Misuse:** The broad immunity from prosecution outlined in the bill creates legal ambiguity, much like what has been observed in California. There, such laws have led to confusion among law enforcement, with officers unsure when and how to enforce drug-related laws, potentially hampering effective policing and community relations.

**Community Impact:** Local opposition to needle exchange programs is well-documented, as seen in New Jersey towns where community resistance was fierce due to fears over increased drug use visibility and crime. In Philadelphia, where needle exchanges operate in a similar vein to what's proposed here, there have been complaints about the programs contributing to the perception of increased crime and disorder, even if direct causation isn't statistically proven.

**Resource Misallocation:** The debate over the cost-effectiveness of these programs is ongoing. In Colorado, despite the introduction of similar needle exchange programs, there's been continued discussion about their effectiveness in reducing hepatitis C and HIV rates, questioning whether the funds could be better utilized in proven treatment and prevention strategies rather than in expanding access to drug paraphernalia.

**A Plea for Public Health:** Instead of this bill, we should look to comprehensive solutions that have worked elsewhere:

- Increase funding for detox and rehabilitation centers, like successful models in Oregon.
- Implement education programs akin to those in Washington State, which focus on prevention from an early age.
- Foster community policing initiatives that build trust and cooperation, not the legal ambiguity seen in places like California.

I urge the members of this committee to **VOTE NO** on SB1433 SD1. Let us not emulate the pitfalls of other states where these policies have led to increased public health risks, community discord, and a muddled approach to drug addiction. We must protect our communities by ensuring our laws promote health, safety, and recovery, not the facilitation of drug use under the banner of harm reduction.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:09:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee Members,

As a public health professional with over 15 years of local experience, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB1433 SD1**, which would enhance current syringe exchange laws to be more effective for public health.

Evidence shows that needs-based exchange is a vital strategy to reduce communicable diseases and also increase engagement with social services among people who use drugs. This allows providers to not only prevent diseases like HIV and hepatitis, but also build connections for addressing other urgent health issues, including overdoses, substance use, and houselessness.

I volunteer at our local syringe exchange in Chinatown monthly, and I can attest that people seek services there to improve their health and access social services, even amidst ongoing substance use. As found in a recent Department of Health report (<https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/people-who-use-drugs-talk-about-hep-c>), syringe exchanges in Hawai'i serve as important social service hubs for hard-to-reach communities.

The success of our local syringe exchanges is demonstrated by over 30 years of homegrown efforts in disease prevention, service connection, and community partnerships, including with law enforcement. Please support this bill to ensure that these successes continue, and even increase, local impact for health.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Makiki, HI

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:13:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill! Do not make it easier for criminals to come to Hawaii and live their addict lifestyle by following the laws NYC and CA create. It will not make Hawaii a better place to live and raise children. Please stop this unnecessary bill.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:25:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1433.

State officials should not be advocating for this type of program under the guise of "public health".

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:26:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
LaVada Beard-Holdener	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because it continues the momentum of harm reduction.



**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:36:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433. Please vote NO on this bill.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:48:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433. Providing drug addicts with free syringes only encourages more illegal drug use with no supervision as to how these syringes with needles will be discarded. Nothing worse and detrimental than going to a park with your children and finding used syringes discarded throughout the playground and grassy play areas. Use the money for drug treatment/prevention programs.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:58:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You know whats going to happen? Free needles to everybody means needles on the beaches, parks, playgrounds where everyones families and kids are. No one will want to take responsibility at that point. Thats just putting the public in danger. Especially drug related crime will go up as it did in san Francisco. We know the kick backs are coming. Its just a matter of time until you get caught.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:06:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shari saiki Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly oppose this bill, history has shown that it has made every city it was implemented in fall. Drug use exploded and homelessness. Please do not pass this bill.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:15:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kavika Puahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to Hawaii's Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program, which includes shifting from a one-to-one exchange system to a needs-based distribution model, authorizing non-injection drug users to participate, and modifying liability protections for participants, staff, and law enforcement. These changes are vital to improving public health outcomes by ensuring that people who inject drugs have access to the sterile syringes they need, reducing the risk of bloodborne diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C. A needs-based system will provide flexibility and ensure that everyone at risk of harm can get the supplies they need.

Expanding the program to include non-injection drug users is an important step in reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Drug users who may not inject but still share equipment are also at risk, and this change allows for a broader, more inclusive harm-reduction approach. Ensuring that all drug users can access sterile equipment will make our communities safer and improve public health overall.

Finally, the proposed changes to modify liability for program participants, staff, and law enforcement will remove legal barriers that can deter people from seeking assistance. Reducing legal risks for those involved with the SNP encourages broader participation and helps foster a more supportive environment for those seeking to reduce harm. These changes reflect an evidence-based, compassionate approach to addressing substance use, and I urge the Committee to support them to protect the health and safety of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:17:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Arguments Against Needle Exchange Programs:**

- **Encourages Drug Use:** May enable rather than deter drug use.
- **Public Safety:** Risk from discarded needles in public spaces.
- **Moral Hazard:** Seen by some as not promoting accountability.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:17:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Do NOT try and turn Hawaii into California!!!

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:30:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would further increase the problem. This is a proven failure. San Francisco is no longer a great city. Dont you dare do this to Hawaii. Start drug prevention programs. Opiates can be countered with Kratom.



**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:39:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1433.

Enabling drug users by giving them access to free drug paraphernalia is insane. This has been proven NOT TO WORK in other cities that have instituted these type of "services".

I DO NOT WANT MY HARD EARNED TAXPAYER \$\$\$ going to ridiculous programs such as this. Question why our "Governor" would push for this type of program. Who benefits from this??? Not the people of Hawaii that's for sure. I DO NOT WANT MY CITY TURNED INTO SAN FRANCISCO!!!! I DO NOT WANT USED NEEDLES AND WHAKED OUT DRUGGIES TURNING UP ON OUR STREETS, PARKS AND BEACHES!!!

Any of our "elected officials" who support this bill does not have our State's best interest at heart. So whose interest do they serve???

Dear Chair & Vice Chair,

I **support SB1433**. My big sister Sarah was a participant of the statewide Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) formerly known as the CHOW Project and currently known as Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center for 5 years when she was a 19-24 year-old houseless intravenous (IV) drug user. Sarah utilized SEP to exchange her used for sterile syringes on a one-for-one basis, but she also exchanged for others who were unable to make it to the exchange on their own. At that time, Sarah was using drugs with a large group of HIV+ men and she exchanged hundreds of syringes for them every week. It is often overlooked that drug users really do care about protecting themselves and each other.

Had Sarah not exchanged syringes for others, they would have been forced to share or reuse syringes because not everyone can make it to the exchange for a variety of reasons. Also, not everyone who does make it to the exchange has a syringe to exchange on a one-for-one basis. Sarah described an instance when a friend had been turned away from the exchange for not having any syringes. Oftentimes, when this happens, the person is told by the staff to "Go look for syringes in the parks and come back to exchange those," which is what he did. He finally found a used syringe in a park that was filled with someone else's blood, but by the time he found it, he was already so sick from not using drugs for a while that he couldn't make it back to the exchange and Sarah watched in horror as he used the blood-filled syringe to inject himself. These are the types of circumstances that happen when there is not a distribution-based syringe exchange set up. It's a public health issue.

In 2005, Sarah moved to California where she stopped injecting drugs. But, she did not stop doing drugs. That does not make her less of a valuable person. She lived a full life as a functional substance user – employed, housed, beloved. She said that the syringe exchange saved her life. When she found out that SEP was still doing one-for-one exchange, she was devastated. She interviewed in December 2023 with world-renowned HIV and Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) researcher Dr. Don Des Jarlais for a paper about her experience as a SEP participant and when he asked her what she hoped for in the future for the exchange, she said: "Change it from one-for-one to distribution-based."

I am so grateful for harm reduction and syringe exchange. Sarah said that often going to the exchange was the only time that day someone was nice to her and treated her like a person. But more than that, harm reduction and exchanging used syringes for sterile syringes kept my sister alive for 20 more years so that I could be with her at her bedside when she died. Sarah died of pancreatic cancer at age 42 on March 22, 2024. I truly believe, and so did she, that she would not have survived those 5 years without the syringe exchange. Please continue to support the growth of harm reduction in the direction of evidence-based practice, which is distribution-based exchange. Please support the participants who are other people's family members, like mine. They matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Sophie Gralapp

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:43:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. Supplying needles for drug use will exacerbate drug addiction and it's related consequences in Hawaii. Needle distribution measures in other states have not had a positive effect. Additionally, increased needle waste poses a serious risk to children and pets.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:44:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
karen Mountain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose! If drugs are illegal, or being used illegally, why would we be giving out paraphernalia to help enable drug use? I work at a hospital, we cannot just "give" out needles or syringes. We must follow processes for disposal. Who would be enforcing these processes/guidelines once distributed? Is there going to be oversight? Does the state have extra money to hire a team to supervise, purchase, stock, distribute, exchange, process, dispose etc...? What are the financial, legal, safety, and environment costs? Have the costs been discussed and is it in the budget? Is there evidence that this method of distribution of needles and syringes actually reduce harm? Is there evidence that public areas are not being littered with illegally disposed paraphernalia? Is there an age limit for recipients? Could young children gain access? I propose any time or money should be spent on treatment and not harm reduction.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:54:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It leads to more drug use, more trash and possible harm to children and or pets . This is a waste of money and has the potential to bring harm to the innocent. Please vote no!

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:54:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition to this bill, drugs are illegal but you want to give out free needles? Doesn't make sense. Mahalo

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:00:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Arroyo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SB1433 SD1  
Hawaii State Legislature**

**To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Health**

**From: April Arroyo**

**Date: February 19, 2025**

**Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1433 SD1 - Relating to Harm Reduction**

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1433 SD1, which aims to amend the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program to better serve individuals at risk of bloodborne diseases and improve public health outcomes in Hawaii. This bill represents a critical step toward reducing harm, supporting marginalized communities, and addressing the opioid crisis through evidence-based approaches.

The current one-to-one exchange system of sterile needles and syringes, while helpful, does not fully address the diverse needs of people who use drugs. By transitioning to a needs-based distribution system, SB1433 SD1 allows the program to better allocate resources according to the actual needs of individuals, ensuring that those who require more supplies or face higher risks have access to what they need. This adjustment would help prevent the spread of bloodborne diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C, which disproportionately affect people who inject drugs.

Additionally, the authorization for non-injection drug users to participate in the program is an important step forward. Non-injection drug users are often overlooked in harm reduction efforts, yet they too face significant risks from unsafe drug use practices, such as the sharing of paraphernalia. By expanding participation to these individuals, the program can better serve a wider population, further reducing the transmission of infectious diseases and improving public health outcomes for all drug users, regardless of how they use substances.

Another critical aspect of SB1433 SD1 is the modification of liability for program participants, staff, and law enforcement officers. Ensuring that participants and those working within the program are protected from unnecessary legal consequences helps foster an environment of trust and safety. It encourages greater participation in harm reduction efforts and allows health

workers to carry out their duties without fear of legal repercussions. This is essential to ensuring that the program is as effective as possible in reducing harm and saving lives.

This bill also reflects a growing recognition of the need to approach drug use with compassion and public health strategies rather than criminalization. Harm reduction programs like the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program have been shown to reduce overdose deaths, prevent the spread of disease, and connect individuals to necessary services, such as addiction treatment, mental health support, and housing.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to pass SB1433 SD1 and continue advancing harm reduction policies that prioritize the health, dignity, and well-being of all Hawaii residents. By supporting this measure, we are making a strong commitment to reduce harm, promote public health, and support individuals in our communities who need it most.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

**Sincerely,**

April Arroyo  
86 Poloahilani Street  
Makawao, HI 96768  
808-757-8176  
aearroyo@hawaii.edu



**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:06:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It will cause there to be more needle litter which is an increased danger to children and other people. It will enable and increase drug use. It creates an open ended needs program that never ends. I do not support this in any way. I do not want my tax dollars going for this. Other states who have tried this have seen increased crime. This offers no solution to the drug addiction problem and only encourages drug use.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:08:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Senate Bill No. 1433, as it poses significant risks that could lead Hawaii down a dangerous path, deteriorating our state as we've seen in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco. This bill's shift to a needs-based needle distribution system and its inclusion of non-injection drug users could send a devastating message, potentially normalizing drug use and turning our communities into havens for addiction, much like the littered streets and rampant public drug use plaguing those mainland cities. The public might see this as the state handing out tools for addiction rather than solutions, sparking backlash that erodes trust in our health programs. Expanding the program without guaranteed funding risks stretching the Department of Health's limited resources thin, leaving us with a strained budget unable to meet the increased demand for needles, cookers, and other paraphernalia—potentially forcing taxpayers to bear the cost while other vital services suffer.

The implementation challenges are a disaster waiting to happen—retraining staff, tracking more items, and managing a complex system could lead to costly errors or delays, disrupting services and mirroring the chaotic mismanagement seen in Los Angeles and San Francisco's overwhelmed harm reduction efforts. The legal protections, though narrow, might embolden exploitation, and participants could still face prosecution for related drug crimes, negating safe disposal benefits while adding to our legal and social woes. The administrative burden of detailed annual reports will drain time and money from actual efforts, and if the data's unreliable, we'll be blind to whether this even works—much like the unclear outcomes fueling debates in those deteriorating cities. Including non-injection drug users further dilutes focus from those at highest risk, risking an overstretched program that fails all, pushing Hawaii toward the same decline of public safety and quality of life. Our state deserves better than to gamble on policies that could transform our paradise into another cautionary tale of urban decay.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:11:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I know public testimony and comments don't muster any thought, but I OPPOSE

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:21:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Committee Representing Hawai'i Citizens,**

**Mahalo for taking precious time to read & receive these communiques; I appreciate you greatly!**

I stand in strong opposition to SB1433 legalizing free syringes for the public. Why is this a bad idea? Let's think about it, WHO in the public wants free syringes? Addicts and most probably people who cannot afford it who need to inject illegal substances, most probably illegal immigrants again syphoning off the legal tax-paying residents of Hawai'i. All around a BAD IDEA.

The greater question is: WHY is Gov. Green proposing such a law? What does he have to gain? Is it really from a heart of charity to give addicts & impoverished people greater access to drug paraphernalia? No, simply not. This is not resolving the issue at the core of the issue. It is throwing gasoline on the fire, and draining the taxpayers at the same time. All around this is not a win-win situation, it's a lose-lose & more losing situation as we sustain addicts & kill taxpayers.

Similar programs in other states have only seen increases in drug-related crimes. Look at San Francisco, once a beautiful city, now a literal dump with people taking a dump on sidewalks and all over the lovely city. Crime is skyrocketing. I used to love SFO but NO MO!

This is also a risk to our keiki as increased needle litter (addicts & people taking freebies are not mindful consumers, most often trash the 'aina as they trash themselves) that will be a health & safety risk for children & pets, & ohana who aren't looking at every step we take in public parks, beaches and areas. AUWE!

Overall, this enables drug use under the guise of "harm reduction", in fact it does the opposite HARM EXPLOSION! Why? No focus on treatment & prevention strategies, only on co-dependency and furthering addiction. AUWE!

In summary, I strongly oppose SB1433 proposed by Gov. Green & his party & I strongly encourage you to do the same on behalf of the majority of Hawai'i residents that you represent. Mahalo & May Ke Akua be with you all!

Malama Pono,

Dawn O'Brien

Lifelong resident of Hawai'i

Pres., HOPE HI, Inc.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:23:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Instead of enabling these criminals/ drug addicts. You should be working on treatment & prevention.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:31:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB1433. Get the addicts help with treatment, this bill will not help to get these very ill people, it will only encourage this destructive behavior. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:31:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433



**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:48:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Providing needles to people addicted to drugs is not safe, they will be leaving them all over the island and people will be subject to harm by used needles. I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:05:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433 in its entirety which implements an open-ended "needs-based" distribution like San Francisco. Similar programs in other States have seen increase in drug-related crimes and no focus on treatment and prevention strategies.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:06:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill. I do not want our beautiful state to turn in to another San Francisco.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:39:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This unrighteous bill proposes the opposite of harm reduction. I am not sure why Governor Green is so confused about simple things but I'm praying for him to lead Hawaii towards righteous solutions for drug-addictions, like treatment and prevention.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:06:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aulii Adviento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to the this bill. We do not need Hawai'i streets littered with used syringes. I have personally found syringes in public restrooms, in communitcy parks, and in the sand on the beaches where my children were walking. Similar programs exist in cities in California and it is an absolute mess. This bill will increases and promotes health and safety risks.

'A'ole to SB1433!!!!

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:31:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Expedita Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose SB 1433 . It will increase needle litter which is a health hazard. It will increase drug related crimes . No focus on treatment and prevention. Please stop this bill now

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:41:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose SB 1433!!

This is another ridiculous use of tax payer funds. We have enough drug related problems in our state. If Maui is already doing this, pay attention to the high theft & crime rate over there. Josh Green and politicians that think this is a great idea should take a field trip to the heart of San Fransisco and see the damage this policy has caused over there. **WE DO NOT NEED TO BE LIKE SAN FRANCISCO.** We do not need to become known as a sanctuary place for drug users. That is the **WRONG** type of tourism. Please use comon sense when thinking about this bill. It's is **TOTALLY WRONG!**

Thank you

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:12:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

it Implements an open-ended "needs-based" distribution program like San Francisco. Increased needle litter will be a health and safety risk for children and pets

Introducer of the Bill:

Similar programs in other States have seen increase in drug-related crimes

-Enables drug use under the guise of "harm reduction"

No focus on treatment and prevention strategies

JOSH GREEN

STOP THIS BILL NOW!!



**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:24:05 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela M Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for providing the specific details of Hawai‘i SB1433 (SD1). With this information—that it amends the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program from a one-to-one exchange to a needs-based distribution system, allows non-injection drug user participation, and modifies liability for participants, staff, and law enforcement—I can refine the opposition statement to address these provisions directly. Below is an updated opposition testimony tailored to these changes, suitable for submission to the Hawai‘i State Legislature or public advocacy.

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### Opposition Testimony for Hawai‘i SB1433 (SD1)

**\*\*To the Hawai‘i State Legislature,\*\***  
**\*\*Date: February 19, 2025\*\***  
**\*\*Re: Opposition to SB1433 (SD1) – Amendments to Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program\*\***

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 1433 (SD1), which shifts the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program from a structured one-to-one exchange to an undefined needs-based distribution system, extends participation to non-injection drug users, and alters liability protections. While aimed at harm reduction, these changes erode accountability, jeopardize public safety, and fail to address Hawai‘i’s broader substance abuse crisis. My objections are as follows:

- \*\*Abandoning One-to-One Exchange Undermines Safety and Accountability\*\***  
The current one-to-one exchange system (under HRS §325-21) ensures a controlled, reciprocal process: used needles are returned, reducing litter and misuse, while still supporting disease prevention. Switching to a "needs-based" model—without clear limits or requirements—invites over-distribution and removes incentives for safe disposal. Evidence from jurisdictions like Seattle shows needle exchange programs with lax rules correlate with increased public needle sightings. Hawai‘i’s beaches and parks, vital to our culture and economy, cannot withstand this risk.
- \*\*Non-Injection Drug User Participation Defies Logic\*\***  
Allowing non-injection drug users into the Program dilutes its purpose—preventing blood-borne diseases among injection users. Why provide syringes to those who don’t inject? This provision could enable drug trafficking or misuse, as individuals might acquire syringes to sell or

share, bypassing existing safeguards. It stretches an already niche public health tool into a vague, unjustifiable giveaway, diverting resources from those who truly need them.

### 3. **\*\*Modified Liability Weakens Oversight\*\***

Altering liability for Program participants, staff, and law enforcement raises red flags. If participants are shielded from accountability for misuse (e.g., discarding needles improperly), it shifts the burden onto communities. If staff gain broader protections, who ensures program integrity? And if law enforcement liability is reduced, what happens when officers encounter illegal activity tied to unchecked syringe distribution? These changes erode trust and leave taxpayers to clean up the mess—literally and figuratively.

### 4. **\*\*No Evidence of Effectiveness\*\***

SB1433 assumes a needs-based model will outperform the current system, yet it offers no data to justify this leap. Hawai‘i’s one-to-one exchange already balances harm reduction with public order—where’s the proof that abandoning it for an open-ended approach works better? Other states, like California, have seen mixed results with liberalized syringe programs, including spikes in needle waste and no clear drop in addiction rates. We shouldn’t gamble with untested policies in a state with unique geographic and social challenges. Take a hard look at the current state of San Francisco, Portland and other cities who have experimented with this program to see the results.

### 5. **\*\*Perpetuates Harm, Not Healing\*\***

Expanding syringe access without mandating addiction treatment or disposal compliance props up a broken status quo. Hawai‘i’s overdose deaths and homelessness crisis demand holistic solutions—counseling, rehab, and prevention—not a broader pipeline for drug use tools. Residents on X have called this type of legislation a “disaster,” reflecting a growing unease that SB1433 prioritizes ideology over practical outcomes.

### **\*\*Alternative Approach\*\***

Maintain the one-to-one exchange system, which has proven manageable and effective. Enhance it with stricter disposal rules, mandatory education, and integrated addiction services—don’t dismantle it for an unproven, risky alternative. Limit participation to injection users and preserve clear liability to protect all involved.

### **\*\*Conclusion\*\***

SB1433 (SD1) trades a functional, balanced program for a vague, hazardous experiment. It threatens public safety, misallocates resources, and ignores the voices of Hawai‘i residents who deserve better. I urge the Legislature to reject this bill and focus on comprehensive strategies that heal, not enable, our communities. Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:25:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433. My tax money should not be going to DRUG ADDICTS. It should be going to an effort for recovery. We don't feed addiction to solve this issue.

We have a huge mental health issue here in Hawaii and we need to make that a top concern. Get to the root issue of these drug addictions. Focus on bettering the mental health of Hawaii's people.

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:36:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony - Only

Comments:

WOW, JUST WOW...

SAN FRANCISCO'S FAILED ATTEMPT AT THIS WILL NOT BE REPEATED IN HAWAII -  
SPEND TAXPAYER \$\$\$ ON SOMETHING THAT MAKES SENSE!!!

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:38:36 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanelle Kim Seu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Senate Bill No. 1433, as it poses significant risks that could lead Hawaii down a dangerous path, deteriorating our state as we've seen in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco. This bill's shift to a needs-based needle distribution system and its inclusion of non-injection drug users could send a devastating message, potentially normalizing drug use and turning our communities into havens for addiction, much like the littered streets and rampant public drug use plaguing those mainland cities. The public might see this as the state handing out tools for addiction rather than solutions, sparking backlash that erodes trust in our health programs. Expanding the program without guaranteed funding risks stretching the Department of Health's limited resources thin, leaving us with a strained budget unable to meet the increased demand for needles, cookers, and other paraphernalia—potentially forcing taxpayers to bear the cost while other vital services suffer.

The implementation challenges are a disaster waiting to happen—retraining staff, tracking more items, and managing a complex system could lead to costly errors or delays, disrupting services and mirroring the chaotic mismanagement seen in Los Angeles and San Francisco's overwhelmed harm reduction efforts. The legal protections, though narrow, might embolden exploitation, and participants could still face prosecution for related drug crimes, negating safe disposal benefits while adding to our legal and social woes. The administrative burden of detailed annual reports will drain time and money from actual efforts, and if the data's unreliable, we'll be blind to whether this even works—much like the unclear outcomes fueling debates in those deteriorating cities. Including non-injection drug users further dilutes focus from those at highest risk, risking an overstretched program that fails all, pushing Hawaii toward the same decline of public safety and quality of life. Our state deserves better than to gamble on policies that could transform our paradise into another cautionary tale of urban decay.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:59:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is insane.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:04:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kealohi Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!! The Governor is a donkey to even think this was a good idea. We don't want Hawai'i to be looking like Cali. To think he's a Dr and has this kind of stupid ideas.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:07:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 1433, SD 1, which would move Hawaii's syringe access program from a 1-to-1 exchange to a needs-based exchange. This development is aligned with current best practices in the field.

The state's investment in syringe access on every major island for over three decades has kept rates of HIV low over three decades among people who use drugs and their intimate partners. Mobile syringe access vans provide safe disposal of used syringes as well as overdose prevention tools like nasal naloxone.

Syringe access programs provide opportunities for no-cost HIV screenings and linkage to care and distribution of safer sex supplies. No-cost hepatitis C screenings and linkage to care is also available.

Syringe access programs also provide consistent opportunities to link those from under resourced communities with assistance in obtaining regular preventative and primary care, behavioral health care and treatment, and access to other available government services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:10:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** SB 1433, SD 1, which would move Hawaii's syringe access program from a 1-to-1 exchange to a needs-based exchange. This development is aligned with current best practices in the field.

The state's investment in syringe access on every major island for over three decades has kept rates of HIV low over three decades among people who use drugs and their intimate partners. Mobile syringe access vans provide safe disposal of used syringes as well as overdose prevention tools like nasal naloxone.

Syringe access programs provide opportunities for no-cost HIV screenings and linkage to care and distribution of safer sex supplies. No-cost hepatitis C screenings and linkage to care is also available.

Syringe access programs also provide consistent opportunities to link those from under resourced communities with assistance in obtaining regular preventative and primary care, behavioral health care and treatment, and access to other available government services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:35:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ailanna Lagmay-josiah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose, why would you give a drug addict a clean needle if they have a drug addiction.....they should be brought in to receive help rather than given a needle to continue their addiction.....make it make sense.....

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:50:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristin Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would we want to promote more unsafe drug use in Hawaii? I live in Kaneohe. There's already a large drug addicted homeless population residing in our public spaces, on the streets, in front of the fire stations, at the bus stops, in the shopping centers, etc. They litter, spill over rubbish bins and leave messes. And this bill would promote giving them needles?! So now we'd have needles in all our public spaces too harming the community. These types of programs have led to great harm in California and in Oregon. Don't bring it here.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:27:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe giving free syringes to drug addicts is crazy as much as you think your helping them your also helping kids get injured by these dirty needles because these so called people you are giving these needles too aren't responsibly disposing those dirty needles and for those reasons I oppose this bill

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:09:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This initiative may sound good, but it ultimately enables and perpetuates dangerous substance abuse rather than addressing the root causes of addiction. Instead of discouraging drug use, such programs can create a false sense of safety, allowing addicts to continue harmful behaviors without seeking treatment. Moreover, taxpayer money would be better spent on rehabilitation programs, mental health services, and law enforcement efforts to curb drug trafficking, rather than facilitating drug use. While proponents argue that free syringes reduce the spread of diseases like HIV and hepatitis, this approach ignores the larger issue of addiction itself, failing to offer a real path to recovery. A more effective solution would focus on prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation, ensuring that individuals receive the support necessary to break free from addiction rather than being handed the tools to sustain it.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:09:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camille Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is such a stupid satanic bill. Are you all trying to turn us into feces-ridden zombie drug addicted San Francisco?

We totally oppose this beyond stupid bill!

I can't believe this "idea" even made it to paper.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:12:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elijah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433. I do NOT agree with Josh Green to give free syringes to drug addicts. It did not work for California. It will not work for Hawaii. Increased needle litter is a health and safety risk for the state including children and pets. It's bad enough that I had to move out of town to not see needles or drug addicts as much as Ias where I currently live. But to give out more needles for free on the tax payer's dime doesn't make sense at all. Similar programs in other states have increased drug related crimes. It only enables drug use under the guise of "harm reduction," when it's the exact opposite. Stop this bill now!

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:38:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1433.



**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:03:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado is in Strong Opposition to this Bill SB1433 SD1

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:16:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol D. Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please strongly OPPOSE this bill. The needle litter will be all over our Island. This bill enables drug use. This is a waste of our tax dollars. All of you who want to vote yes on this bill should go visit San Francisco, New York City and Kensington, PA, to see what really happens to cities that have similar programs. Stop this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:16:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:33:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lani Primacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose !

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:22:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Another disgusting bill trying to be pushed through by this idiotic Democratic Party..

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:05:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Tautofi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB1433

Coach David Tautofi

Educator | Coach | Proud Father | Family Advocate | Athletic Ambassador for the State of Hawaii

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Coach David Tautofi, and I am writing in strong opposition to SB1433. As an educator, coach, proud father, family advocate, and Athletic Ambassador for the State of Hawaii, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this bill could have on our communities—especially on our families, children, and youth.

Why SB1433 is Harmful...

While I recognize the importance of addressing public health concerns, this bill does not set a positive example for our keiki and does little to actually solve the root issues of addiction. Instead, it introduces serious risks that could make our communities less safe and further normalize destructive behaviors.

1. Encourages Drug Use Instead of Prevention & Recovery

- SB1433 prioritizes easy access to needles but does not require accountability, treatment, or rehabilitation efforts for drug users.
- Without clear connections to recovery programs, this bill sends the wrong message—that our state is more focused on providing tools for drug use rather than helping people overcome addiction.

2. Puts Families, Children & Communities at Risk

- By expanding needle distribution without stricter disposal and safety measures, we risk seeing more used needles in parks, beaches, and public spaces where children play.

- This could create or will add a new public safety crisis, exposing youth and families to dangerous biohazards and increasing community anxiety about drug activity in their neighborhoods.

### 3. This Weakens Law Enforcement's Role in Keeping Communities Safe

- The bill makes it easier for individuals to carry and distribute needles, even those containing drug residue, which blurs the line between harm reduction and enabling illegal activity.
- Law enforcement officers will face greater challenges in preventing drug-related crimes while also being limited in their ability to intervene effectively.

### 4. This Undermines the Values we want to teach our Keiki and the people of Hawaii

- As a coach and educator, I know how critical it is to instill discipline, responsibility, and positive decision-making in young people.
- If our state government starts providing unlimited access to drug-related tools without serious restrictions, what message does this send to our next generation?
- We must lead with solutions that inspire hope, discipline, and resilience—not enable dangerous habits.

### A Better Path Forward

Instead of expanding needle distribution without accountability, we should focus on programs that emphasize prevention, education, rehabilitation, and recovery. I urge this committee to redirect efforts toward:

1. Stronger investment in drug prevention education for youth
2. More accessible and fully funded addiction recovery programs
3. Stricter regulations on safe disposal of used needles to protect communities
4. Law enforcement support to ensure a balanced approach between harm reduction and public safety

I urge you to stand with Hawaii's families, educators, and communities by rejecting SB1433. Let's lead with true solutions that protect our youth, strengthen our families, and build a healthier, safer Hawaii for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Coach David Tautofi

Educator | Coach | Proud Father | Family Advocate | Athletic Ambassador for the State of Hawaii



**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:05:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we taxpayers do not want to have our tax dollars used to encourage and enable illegal drug users to make it easier for them to continue using illegal drugs.

if you are going to give needles to illegal drug users then you should hand out free ammunition to legal gun owners,

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:24:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, this is enabling and as a taxpayer I do not want my money paying for this!

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:32:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose!

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:35:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:45:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stongly oppose this bill. We should not be encouraging and enabling drug use and we certainly don't want our tax dollars paying for this.

Our child and grandchildren lived in a state that allowed drug use and it becomes filthy with drug paraphernalia everywhere which is not safe for the children or anyone else.

Allowing and encouraging drug use leads to crime, more homelessness, and decay of society.

Please do not allow our state to become like the filthy, dangerous areas like the liberal states on the mainland.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:50:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 1433

Aloha Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State Senate and House of Representatives,

My name is Tiare Smith a resident of Kahaluu Oahu, and I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1433, which seeks to amend the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program by shifting from a one-to-one exchange model to a needs-based distribution system, expanding access to non-injection drug users, and modifying liability protections. While I recognize the bill’s aim to reduce bloodborne infections like HIV and hepatitis, I believe these changes pose significant risks to public safety, undermine accountability, and send the wrong message to our communities. I urge you to reject this bill in its entirety.

**\*\*Public Safety Risks from Needs-Based Distribution\*\***

The current one-to-one exchange system ensures a balanced approach: participants return used needles in exchange for sterile ones, reducing the circulation of contaminated syringes in public spaces. Moving to a needs-based model—where individuals can receive unlimited quantities of needles without returning used ones—could flood our streets, parks, and beaches with discarded syringes. The bill cites research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention claiming this approach doesn’t increase unsafe disposal, but local conditions in Hawai‘i, with our dense urban areas and heavily used public spaces, differ from national averages. Without a requirement to return used needles, the incentive for proper disposal weakens, posing a direct threat to families, children, and visitors who deserve safe environments.

**\*\*Moral Concerns and Enabling Drug Use\*\***

Expanding the program to provide supplies and services to non-injection drug users and granting immunity for drug residue on returned equipment raises serious ethical questions. While the intent may be to connect people with health services, this could inadvertently normalize and facilitate drug use rather than discourage it. Providing unlimited needles and legal protections for possession of drug residue might signal to vulnerable individuals—especially youth—that drug use is tacitly accepted, undermining prevention efforts. The bill’s supporters argue it won’t increase drug use or crime, but loosening controls and broadening access could erode the boundaries that deter initiation or escalation of substance abuse. Our focus should be on treatment and recovery, not on making drug use easier or safer.

**\*\*Weakened Accountability and Enforcement \*\***

SB 1433 extends liability protections to program staff, participants, and even law enforcement acting in good faith, while exempting participants from prosecution for drug residue on used syringes for up to six months after their last program visit. This creates a troubling loophole: individuals could stockpile needles, use them for illegal activities, and avoid consequences under the guise of program participation. Law enforcement's ability to address drug-related offenses could be hampered, especially in communities already burdened by substance abuse. The bill's reliance on the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's model legislation overlooks Hawai'i's unique challenges, such as limited resources to monitor and enforce safe disposal or program compliance.

**\*\*Alternative Solutions Over Expansion \*\***

Rather than expanding the program in ways that could exacerbate public health and safety issues, we should strengthen the existing one-to-one exchange system. Enhancing education, increasing funding for addiction treatment, and improving safe disposal infrastructure—like more drop-off sites—would address disease prevention without the risks of a needs-based approach. The current program has operated for over 30 years with measurable success; why overhaul it based on national recommendations that may not fit our local context?

**\*\* Conclusion\*\***

Honorable Legislators, SB 1433 prioritizes harm reduction over prevention and safety, potentially at the expense of our communities' well-being. I respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and instead invest in solutions that balance public health with accountability and deterrence. Our state deserves policies that protect all residents, not just a select few, while fostering recovery over perpetuation of drug use. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Tiare Smith

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:59:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will put the health and safety of everyone at risk if it were to pass and become law. Why? Because handing out free syringes like candy will lead to needle litter, which are dangerous for people and animals. This bill will also enable drug addiction and only lead to an increase of drug related crimes.

We should instead invest in rehabilitation programs so that drug addicts can actually seek healthy and life-saving treatments so that they overcome their addiction. Hawaii should not be a place that is drug-addiction friendly. We should be a place of true freedom. Therefore, I oppose SB1433.





**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:36:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karissa Fuller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to SB 1433. Expanding access to hypodermic needles will increase drug use, crime, and overdose deaths, while failing to address the root causes of addiction.

**This Bill Puts Hawaii’s Keiki and Families at Risk**

- Our parks, sidewalks, and beaches are already littered with used needles. Increased distribution will only worsen public health hazards.
- Cities like Portland and San Francisco have seen surges in public drug use, overdoses, and crime after implementing similar policies.
- Children should not have to witness open drug use or risk exposure to discarded syringes on their way to school.

**Crime, Overdoses, and Public Disorder Will Rise**

- In Oregon, overdose deaths increased by 40% after decriminalization and expanded harm reduction efforts. ([Oregon Health Authority](#))
- Property crimes, theft, and vandalism have spiked in areas where drug policies were loosened.
- Hawaii’s first responders and law enforcement are already overwhelmed—this bill will strain resources further.

**This Bill Sends the Wrong Message**

- Hawaii criminalizes heroin, fentanyl, and meth—yet this bill enables their use.
- Instead of helping addicts recover, this bill traps them in addiction.

- Hawaii won't legalize medical marijuana, but is willing to provide heroin injection supplies? This contradiction is unacceptable.

## We Need Real Solutions, Not Enabling Policies

Instead of providing easier access to needles, Hawaii should invest in:

- ✓ Mental health and addiction recovery programs that help people get off drugs.
- ✓ Stronger law enforcement efforts to stop the spread of fentanyl and meth.
- ✓ Community outreach and prevention programs that keep our streets safe.

Vote NO on SB 1433

If passed, SB 1433 will endanger public safety, increase crime, and lead to more overdose deaths. I urge you to reject this bill and prioritize real solutions for addiction recovery.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karissa Fuller

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:25:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Wehrly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposing bill SB1433.

I can't believe you want to give free syringes to drug addicts. But then again I can. Keeping the drug cartel going in Hawaii.

Obviously you still want to have drugs moving thru Hawaii if you pass this bill. We have a serious drug problem in America. Even in Hawaii we have so many folks on hard drugs. Why would we give them supplies to keep using.

Why don't we focus first on stopping the drugs coming into Hawaii. Offer treatment to the ones that need it, and prevention information in our schools and T.V. ads. Why not use the youth drug treatment center they spent millions on building in Kauai. Pretty sure it still hasn't been used for what it was built for wasted tax dollars. It was built to help our youth using drugs to get back on track to save their lives to make healthy choices in life. That their lives matter.

In other states that have this program has caused more problems instead of solving them. If passed this would show that you don't care about the people. Besides the ones using drugs, think of the community that has to watch this or the families that are torn apart by the use of drugs, or our keiki at the playground get hurt by used needles.

Please use our tax dollars to stop the drugs coming in by mail, planes, boats. Focus on the problem instead of causing more harm to our families over here.

Please oppose this bill SB1433.

Amanda Wehrly

Kauai Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:37:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Esther Gonzales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absurd and a waste of taxpayers money. We can use the monies for a much better purpose then to ensure a drug attic has a clean needle for his fix.

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:47:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill you will turns us into California drug users all throughout the streets it look so awful. This bill is rubbish like Josh green . He is rubbish to me doing all these awful bills like he is awful for Hawaii . I don't like Josh green nor do I trust him one bit .

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:16:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill that encourages and supports drug use. It clearly hasn't worked in other states why are we trying to bring it here?

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:19:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**LATE**

**SB-1433-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:05:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B Standing	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1433.

This is a dangerous bill which has already proven ineffective in cities like Seattle, San Francisco and Boston. This is the definition of insanity. Why would it be different here, in our beloved Hawai'i? Why would one think that everyone who is addicted to IV drug use would benefit from a program like this? There is no supervision how the needles are used, passed along or discarded.

The bill is written under the guise of making the IV drug community safer and healthier, but what about the keiki who will undoubtedly be even more exposed to drug use? Will all IV users will be responsible with even freer access to needles and less stigma attached to drug use? Do we want to go to the beach, hiking trails and parks with our keiki and pets and have to worry about discarded needles? Clearly SB1433 puts IV users' safety first. Our keiki should not be exposed to blatant drug use in their formative years.