

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1433
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 1433 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HARM REDUCTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Amend the distribution system of sterile needles and syringes under the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program from a one-to-one exchange system to a needs-based distribution system;
- (2) Authorize non-injection drug user participation in the Program; and
- (3) Modify liability for Program participants, staff, and law enforcement officers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that sharing injection equipment among individuals who use drugs is a major contribution to the spread of human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV), hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and other serious bloodborne infections. Your Committee further



finds that the State's Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program has aimed to prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens and to provide individuals who inject drugs with services such as referrals to appropriate health and social services, thereby reducing the overall disease burden in the State. This measure updates various provisions of the Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program to allow for critical improvements, thereby increasing the effectiveness and impact of the Program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to clarify that "authorized objects" is limited to objects that are incidental to syringe exchange;
- (2) Clarifying that the possession or delivery of used needles or syringes containing residue shall not constitute a drug possession offense under certain sections of existing law for syringe exchange participants within six months after their last participation in a program visit; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1433, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1433, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,



JOEL A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SB 1433</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HHS, JDC</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">2/3/25</div>										
<div><input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____</div>												
<div>The Recommendation is:</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"><div><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div></div>												
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused								
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓											
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓											
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓											
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓											
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓											
TOTAL	5											
<div>Recommendation:</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</div></div>												
<div>Chair's or Designee's Signature:</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; text-align: center;">[Signature]</div>												
<div>Distribution:</div> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"><tr><td>Original</td><td>Yellow</td><td>Pink</td><td>Goldenrod</td></tr><tr><td>File with Committee Report</td><td>Clerk's Office</td><td>Drafting Agency</td><td>Committee File Copy</td></tr></table>					Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod									
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy									

*Only one measure per Record of Votes