

LATE Testimony



Partners Include:

Department of
Education Windward
District

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Honolulu Police
Department, District 4

KEY Project

Kiwanis Club of
Kaneohe

PACT Kaneohe
Community Family
Center

Queen Liliuokalani
Children's Center

Windward Community
College

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordon, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Community Works in 96744

Support for HB 1212, Relating to Substance Abuse

Community Works in 96744 (zip code area) is a Coalition of agencies, organizations and individuals whose mission is to create a community where substance abuse is minimized and youth and their families effectively use community resources to support healthy lifestyles.

HB 1212 appropriates funds for substance abuse treatment efforts and establishes or assists existing community centers to prevent at-risk youth from engaging in substance abuse. In 2007 the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation reported that underage drinking cost the citizens of Hawaii \$188 million. In 2006 three (3) homicides; 2,600 nonfatal violent crimes such as rape, robbery and assault; and 10,600 property crimes including burglary, larceny, and car theft involved an underage drinking perpetrator. An estimated 20 fatal burns, drowning and suicides involved underage drinking. In addition 400 pregnancies and 1,700 risky sexual acts by teens involved alcohol. This data shows the importance of appropriating funds for prevention of substance abuse.

Community Works in 96744 supports HB 1212, Relating to Substance Abuse and urges you to pass this measure out of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

For: **HB1212 Relating to Substance Abuse** Appropriates funds for substance abuse treatment efforts and to establish or assist existing community centers meant to prevent at-risk youth from engaging in substance abuse.

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Time: Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, 9:00: AM, Conference Room 329

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

Good morning Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan and Distinguished Committee Members: My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than 20 non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

HSAC supports HB 1212:

There is a shortage of treatment agencies for adults on the North Shore. The nearest services are in Kaneohe. There is, however, adolescent services for both residential and outpatient on the North Shore under Bobby Benson Center, which incidentally is the only adolescent residential service in the state for alcohol and drug treatment.

While we are mindful of current economic situations, this population is underserved and must travel to access services.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

**Testimony in Support of HB 1212
Relating to Substance Abuse
February 3, 2011**

**LATE
Testimony**

To: Committee on Human Services
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep Jo Jordon, Vice Chair

Fr: Alan Shinn, Executive Director
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite A259
Honolulu, Hi 96817

Thank you for accepting my testimony in support of HB 1212 - Relating Substance Abuse. We need more resources for substance abuse prevention and treatment to address Hawaii's alcohol and drug use issues.

Hawaii has a significant substance abuse problem especially with increased stressors such as a distressed economy and high unemployment. Ice or Crystal Methamphetamine use has never gone away. Prescription drug abuse involving Oxycontin and Methadone among others, is on the rise and has already reached epidemic levels on the mainland. Underage and binge drinking and chronic marijuana use are increasing problems with our youth aided by new, sexy alcohol products like energy drinks spiked with alcohol and increased accessibility to potent strains of marijuana. New designer drugs like K-2 or Spice, appear in the community with little known long term harmful effects.

According to ADAD 2010 data, most treatment admissions are for ice. Deaths, arrests and drug seizures are up for crystal meth. According to law enforcement, ice purity and price are high with an adequate supply. Anecdotally, referral calls to Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii's Prevention Resource Center are mainly adults seeking treatment for ice use. Ice has been in Hawaii for the past three decades and we are seeing generational addiction to the drug and many ice affected babies. There are long waiting lists for residential treatment slots unless person seeking treatment has private insurance or is being court ordered.

Other drugs negatively impact Hawaii and its youth as well. Recent national drug use surveys (SAMHSA/ NSDUH, 2008/Monitoring the Future, 2009) and Hawaii Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (CDC/YRBS, 2009) indicate that alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use are again on the rise after a period of decrease, with adolescents initiating use earlier, as young as 13 years. Marijuana abuse has the highest treatment admission rate for Hawaii youth and second highest for adults (ADAD, 2010).