

SR-62

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 12:04:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/24/2023 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Martin	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

My name is Dr. Robin Martin, I am a psychiatrist who trained and now practice in Honolulu with the Kahala Clinic for Children and Family, and am also assistant clinical faculty with the Department of Psychiatry at UH, and I am **in strong support of SCR69/ SR62** which will establish the Beneficial Treatments Advisory Council.

In my profession I see on a daily basis the significant mental health challenges our state is facing, and the limitations in our current treatment paradigms. Major depression is becoming the leading cause of disability worldwide, and with only 1-2 thirds of these folks getting significant benefit from typical medication and therapy approaches. PTSD impacts 5% of the population with many whom are not helped with standard therapies. We are in desperate need of new approaches.

More and more clinical trials are being run in major research institutions and published in top tier medical journals, showing psilocybin and MDMA assisted therapy to be a promising and even groundbreaking clinical treatment for a range of mental and psychiatric diagnoses including depression, end-of-life anxiety, and PTSD. These treatments are typically done in supervised clinical settings combined with psychotherapy

The FDA has granted psilocybin and MDMA breakthrough therapy designation , which is designated for **a drug that treats a serious or life-threatening condition** and preliminary clinical evidence indicates that the drug may demonstrate substantial improvement on a clinically significant endpoint(s) over available therapies.

Many municipalities around the country and around the world are moving forward with making these treatments available to the patients who need it most. Hawaii should not fall behind in

bringing innovative and effective treatments to its people. This bill is an important step in that direction.

Please support this measure.

Mahalo,

Dr. Robin Martin

SR-62

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 7:15:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/24/2023 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ruta Jordans, I live in Wailua Homesteads on Kauai, and I am writing in strong support of SCR 69 / SR 62, which requests the DOH to establish the Beneficial Treatments Advisory Council to review, evaluate, and recommend new mental health treatments.

My daughter just received her doctorate in psychology with her dissertation on the experience of veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) who had used ayathuasca. What I have learned from her studies is that current treatments for PTSD do not help the problem, but make it worse by getting the veterans addicted. However, the psychedelics they took actually helped them through their PTSD and helped them reorient. The Beneficial Treatments Advisory Council suggested in this resolution would help Hawaii determine if if other therapies, such as psychedelics, would be helpful to people with mental health issues, such as these veterans with PTSD were experiencing.

Researchers around the world have renewed scientific understanding of the benefits of psychedelic medicine on the brain and body, so it is with growing certainty that scientists and medical professionals are now working with policymakers to bring safe medicines like psilocybin and MDMA above ground for therapeutic uses.

Major research and academic institutions around the world has shown psilocybin and MDMA to be promising and even groundbreaking clinical treatments for a wide range of mental and psychiatric diagnoses including anxiety, addiction, depression, end-of-life anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Psilocybin is increasingly considered one of the most natural, effective, non-addictive, and safe treatment options for depression and anxiety, especially when administered in clinical settings. MDMA is also considered one of the most effective treatments for PTSD, which affects 5% of the U.S. population.

These impressive results have led the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to grant both psilocybin and MDMA their Breakthrough Therapy designation to expedite research and potentially approval. Both are expected to be rescheduled and approved for medical use in the next few years federally.

With mental health becoming a more present issue in our communities, everyone knows someone who stands to benefit from access to therapeutic psilocybin, MDMA, and more. Please support this measure.

Mahalo,
Ruta Jordans

SR-62

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 7:58:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/24/2023 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stan Olsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha again from Kona,

Stan Olsen here, feel like a broken record. Sausage and democracy....

As a veteran and commercial boat captain, I know way too many colleagues who have been unable to successfully treat their mental health with booze or scrips. Plenty of good science (both old & new) showing that psychedelics work for these issues. Please support this bill so we can beging utilizing these untapped resources.

Thx



Testimony in Support of Measure (Beneficial Treatments Advisory Council)
SCR 62
Committee Hearing | 2023 Legislative Session

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

My name is Ashley Lukens. For the past 17 years, I have worked as a community organizer and advocate in Hawaii. I received my PhD in Political Science from UH Manoa in 2013. Today, I am writing in strong support of **SCR 62**, a bill which begins an important conversation around therapeutic access to psilocybin in Hawaii. For the past 3 years you have advanced similar measures out of this committee and I'm hoping you do so again today.

Over the past two decades, researchers around the world have renewed scientific understanding of the benefits of psychedelic medicine on the brain and body, so it is with growing certainty that scientists and medical professionals are now working with policymakers to bring plant-based medicines like psilocybin above ground for therapeutic uses.

Research from major institutions around the world has shown psilocybin and MDMA are proving to be a promising clinical treatment tool for a wide range of mental and psychiatric diagnoses including anxiety, addiction, depression, end-of-life anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. As a result, psilocybin is increasingly considered one of the most natural, effective, non-addictive, and safe treatment options for depression and anxiety when administered in clinical settings. These impressive results have led the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to grant both psilocybin and MDMA their Breakthrough Therapy designation for treatment-resistant depression.

As a trained political scientist, I can also confirm that State and County lawmakers now have an essential role to play in the movement toward safe, legal, therapeutic access to psilocybin, MDMA, and other medicines. Citing this research, groundbreaking initiatives in favor of these therapies are occurring at all levels of government, private and public research institutions, and throughout mainstream society. Oregon has just launched its Oregon Psilocybin Services with the State's Oregon Health Authority, which licenses & regulates psilocybin for therapeutic use. And Colorado voters just voted to approve the decriminalization and legal therapeutic use of

psilocybin and other psychedelics. Many expect California, Vermont, Washington and New York to follow suit. [Decriminalization of psilocybin](#) and other psychedelics has already been approved in at least 15 counties across 5 states, including California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Washington, and Washington D.C.

We do not want the citizens of Hawai'i to miss out on these healing modalities. With mental health becoming a more present issue in our communities, everyone knows someone who stands to benefit from access to psilocybin, MDMA. Please support this measure.

Mahalo for your time,

Ashley Lukens, PhD
Founder, Clarity Project
Principal Consultant, Ashley Lukens Consulting Inc
bossy@ashleylukens.com