



House Committee on Health & Homelessness Informational Briefing

Wednesday,
November 15th

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*Executive Assistance to Hawai'i
County Mayor Mitch Roth*

Agenda

- My main area of focus is Community Wellbeing:
 - Mental Health Crisis Response
 - Drug Treatment
 - Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking

This morning would like to share information about:

- Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force
- UH Hilo MA Psychology & Counseling Program Expansion
- Expanding Treatment Options including Detox
 - Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management & Clinically Managed Residential Withdrawal Management

I am a wind-resisting 'a'ali'i; no gale can push me over.

The origin of the Task Force began in November, 2021 when a 14-year-old girl died at home on Hawai`i Island of a fentanyl overdose.

A small group subsequently approached Mayor Mitch Roth, and the coalition now known as the **Hawai`i Island Fentanyl Task Force (HIFTF)** was formed.

The HIFTF organization started and remains a community coalition, and is not incorporated.

As of December 31, 2022, there were 75 members of various organizations throughout Hawai`i Island.

- **Vision**

A community that is aware, informed, and empowered to prevent addiction, drug overdose, and other consequences of drug use on Hawai`i Island.



HIFTF Priorities

- **Education & Prevention:** Combating the Opioid Crisis through the expansion of education and prevention activities.
- **Screening and Early Intervention:** Ensure that there are systems in place for proper screening and early intervention.
- **Treatment Services:** Addressing addiction and mental illness through the expansion of treatment options on island.
- **Recovery Support:** Enhancing both informal and formal recovery support services in our community.
- **Harm Reduction:** Advocating for harm reduction legislation and community initiatives. **Naloxone**
- **Data Analysis & Evaluation:** Improving data collection, analysis, dissemination, and evaluation of data.

To Learn More Check out:

<https://www.hiftf.org/>

- Established in 2005
- Over 200 graduates, 90% graduation rate
- Program offered via Distance Education to students across all islands
- Students complete practicum training in their home communities
- 4 full time core faculty, 1 part-time “temporary” program coordinator
- Admit annual cohorts of 20 students
- Receive approximately 75-100 applications/yr

UH Hilo Masters in Psychology & Counseling Program



UHH Program Description



- 60-credit master's program designed to provide multicultural, student-centered training in clinical mental health counseling
- Curriculum meets the requirements for licensure as a Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in Hawai'i
- Nationally accredited through the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council through 2029
- Only Mental Health Counseling program in the UH System



Need

- Drug overdose deaths increased by 30% from 2019 to 2020, 75% of these were the result of opioid overdose
- 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 6 children live with a mental health problem
- Significant shortage of mental health and substance abuse providers in the state
- CSAC training program at Hawai`i Community College no longer in operation
- Existing CSAC programs are at the associates degree level, which focus solely on SUD treatment and cannot train students to address other psychological disorders
- Including a CSAC track in a master's degree program means that graduates will be trained to assess and treat symptoms of other mental disorders that often accompany SUD, including anxiety, depression, traumatic stress, and suicidality

Opioid Settlement \$ as Bridge Funding

Legislative Funding

- Request for legislative funding for program failed in 2023 session
- Partnership with Hawai`i County Mayor's Office, HIFTF and Hawai`I Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee/DOH ADAD
- Receiving funds as bridge to permanent Legislative funding for program
- Seeking funding in 2024 legislative session
 - Letters sent to Big Island delegation
 - Including request in UHH package budget request to BOR/Governor

Goals for Bridge Funding

- Goal 1: Create a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Concentration
 - 6 credits specific to SUD
 - Complete a practicum and internship in a SUD treatment facility
- Goal 2: Increase Student Enrollment by 50%
 - Increase annual cohort size to 30
 - Create 13 new courses/sections
 - Expand field training sites

Timeline



Year 1 (2023-2024)

- Create new SUD courses
- Announce CSAC Concentration and begin recruitment
- Hire program coordinator
- Begin searches for two faculty, one with SUD specialty

Year 2 (2024-2025)

- New faculty begin
- New CSAC Concentration + N=30 students begin in Summer 2024
- Expand SUD practicum field placements, establish contracts

Year 3 (2025-2026)

- First cohort in CSAC concentration begins SUD practicum training
- First class of CSAC concentration graduates May 2026





BIG ISLAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

Inspiring Change, Reclaiming Lives

BISAC

Detox to open January 2024 in Hilo

- Soft opening with outpatient services

Once building renovations are complete and all licensing in place:

- 3 to 7 day residential detoxification program providing a safe and supportive environment in order to detox from drugs.
- Detox services include assessment and treatment planning, medication administration, daily monitoring of medical condition and withdrawal symptoms, individual counseling, addiction/health education, assistance accessing community resources, case management and referrals as needed.

Mahalo!



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