

**ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (HACDACs)**

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD), Department of Health (DOH), State of Hawai'i

**Kākuhihewa Building, 601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 360, Kapolei, Hawai'i**

**May 27, 2025**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

Members Present: Lilinoe Kauahikaua, MSW, Co-Chair; Diana Felton, MD Vice Chair; Jawanna Ready, MD.

Members Absent: Emily Andrade; John Fujii; John Paul Moses III; ARPR-R; Ku ulei Salzer-Vitale, MSW Co-Chair; Greg Tjapkes; Erika Vargas, LCSW.

Staff Present: John Valera, AICP; Robyn Loudermilk, AICP; Michaela Urial Abitz, Billie-Ann Bruce.

Guests Present Trevor Lee; Wesley Palmer.

| AGENDA ITEM  | DISCUSSION   | RECOMMENDATIONS/<br>ACTIONS/<br>CONCLUSIONS                       | PERSON(S)<br>RESPONSIBLE | DUE DATE |
|--|--|---|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Call to Order:  | The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.  |   |                          |          |
| 2. Consideration and approval of meeting minutes of April 27, 2025.  | <b>No discussion.</b>  | <b>No action due to lack of quorum. Deferred to next meeting.</b> |                          |          |
| 3. Community Input:<br><br>[Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, all interested persons will have three (3) minutes to speak, i.e., per person, per item, or written testimony can be submitted on agenda items] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Palmer is with the University of Hawaii (UH) John A. Burns School of Medicion (JABSOM). He manages a tele-health program, that provides free mental health care on general mental health issues, through out the state.</li> <li>• With the support of ADADs Opioid Settlement Program, the tele-health program will provide substance use support in rural communities. This project is in the early stages of development. Presentation on peer navigator was interesting as they hope to include peer navigators in the tele-health program.</li> </ul> <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua commented that she would like to learn more about employing peers through the tele-</p> |   |                          |          |

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|   | <p>health platform. She also shared about an Aloha Grant project that provided training of peer navigators for tele-health. Upon completion of the training the peer navigator could be employed and receive an income.</p> <p>Commissioner Ready shared that this lines up with an earlier presentation to HACDACS by the Hawaii VA System. They use peer support specialists in their intensive outpatient treatment program that is tele-health based. Though not sure how they are employed within that program.</p>   |   |                          |          |
| <p>4. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Activities of the Hawaii Overdose Initiative (HOI)</li> <li>• Request for Facilitators for the Upcoming Peer Navigator Summit to be held on June 20, 2025, at Windward Community College.</li> </ul> | <p>Mr. Valera reported on HOI activities, the upcoming Peer Navigator Summit (Summit), and a request for facilitators for the summit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HOI Action Teams (ATs) have begun meeting and are going well. Lots of synergies between the ATs as they move forward with projects.</li> <li>• Idea of the Summit is to elevate the role of peers in their varied settings. Allowing them to share what works and advocate for changes. Will also bring together various stakeholders to identify opportunities and next steps for peers.</li> <li>• Event organizers asking for work group facilitators. Each workgroup will have two facilitators: one from the profession and one who is a peer.</li> <li>• There are six workgroups: severe mental illness, polysubstance use-disorder, health care needs, housing system, legal system, and pathways to employment.</li> <li>• ADAD to email members further information on summit. Members interested in facilitating should contact Billie-Ann Bruce.</li> </ul> |   |                          |          |

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|   | <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on ADAD’s report.</p> <p>In response to Co-Chair Kauahikaua’s question, Mr. Valera relayed that the Summit is being planned by the DOH Behavioral Health Administration.</p> <p>She further commented that the Office of Wellness and Resiliency has established Peer permitted action groups (PIGs). And that she has started joining the PIGs and that they are doing some amazing things.</p> |  |                          |          |
| <p>5. Establish an Investigative Permitted Interaction Group, pursuant to §92-2.5(1), Hawaii Revised Statute, to revise existing HACDACS Bylaws.</p>  | <p>No discussion.</p>  | <p><b>No Action due to lack of quorum. Deferred to next meeting.</b></p> |                          |          |
| <p>6. Discussion on Commission Recruitment.</p>   | <p>No discussion.</p>  | <p><b>Deferred to next meeting.</b></p>                                  |                          |          |
| <p>7. Discussion on Conducting an In-Person Meeting on June 24, 2025</p>  | <p>Co-Chair Kauahikaua led the discussion regarding the in-person meeting. Confirmed that in-person meeting is still on. Ms. Loudermilk relayed that parking passes will be provided to Commissioner’s for the building’s parking lot.</p>   |  |                          |          |
| <p>8. Update on meeting topics and presentations for HACDACS meetings in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2025</li> <li>• July 2025</li> <li>• August 2025</li> <li>• September 2025</li> <li>• October 2025</li> </ul> <p>Potential topics include Medical Cannabis Safety and Testing Policies; Harm Reduction Review based on substance use; Status of</p> | <p>No discussion</p>   | <p><b>Deferred to next meeting.</b></p>                                  |                          |          |

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| Residential Treatment Programs and their trends and needs, Prevention Initiatives, Medication Assisted Treatment for Methamphetamine Use Disorder, the intersection of substance use treatment and the criminal justice system. New topic ideas are encouraged. |   |   |                          |          |
| 9. Presentation: An Update on the Hawaii Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention  | <p>Mr. Trevor Lee of the DOH, ADAD Prevention Branch provided an update on the Hawaii Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation highlighted the foundation of the Hawaii Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention (Plan), the data that informs it, strategic goals, and the vision to move forward.</li> <li>• The plan is a comprehensive strategic plan being prepared in partnership with providers, community stakeholders, and technical experts with a vision for a healthier Hawaii, free from the challenges of substance misuse.</li> <li>• Its development began with the 2022 ADAD Hawaii Prevention Conference which brought together providers and stakeholders from across the state. And continued with the ADAD Prevention Advisory Council. Technical assistance was provided by the Partnership for Success project. Local data was used to identify strategies to address the needs of communities with a high prevalence of substance use. Comments were also collected through ADADs recent Request for Information (RFI) sessions.</li> <li>• Plan will be released soon and will be known as the “Skeleton Plan”. It provides a flexible framework while leaving space for community input over the next year. A final Plan is targeted to be released by October 2026.</li> <li>• An assessment identified priority substances, target populations, risk factors, and protective factors. Substances of concern include alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis. Populations most affected by these substances include underage youth, emerging adults (18-25), Native Hawaiians, LGBTQ+ individuals, and rural communities. Risk factors include peer pressure, family rejection, access to substances, and past trauma. Protective factors include supportive policies, strong family bonds, positive parenting, and life skills development.</li> <li>• Statewide agency prevention goals include preventing underage drinking with education curricula, preventing intoxicated driving through policy promotion and media campaigns, preventing youth vaping by boosting perception of risk as well as teaching decision making and social skill, and preventing marijuana use by raising awareness through targeted campaigns as well as providing policy makers with data on its impact.</li> <li>• Goals of the prevention provider community are workforce, data, and community networks. Explore workforce incentives including reviewing the prevention specialist certification process. Develop a data training framework to strengthen proficiency and invest in infrastructure to improve data collection and its use at state, county, and community levels. Utilize community networks to engage youth, cultural leaders, and all community sectors. As well as support statewide and county level gatherings to foster collaboration and training.</li> </ul> |   |                          |          |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement will begin with the release of the Skeleton Plan. Statewide listening sessions will be conducted, including youth voices; with a summary report by June 2026. This feedback will help to shape the final Plan, ensure that it represents a wide range of community voices, and aligns with state and federal prevention goals. May convene a Prevention Summit in 2026.</li> <li>Invites HACDACS to review the Skeleton Plan and submit recommendations for the final Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Co-chair Kauahikaua led the discussion on culture and prevention specialist certification process. She commented that protective factors did not include culture. Research on protective factors can be provided so that culture can be included in the framework. Culture is an important protective factor for all cultures. Also inquired on who is working on streamlining the prevention specialist certification process.</p> <p>Mr. Lee responded that culture has come up in many of the RFI meetings; that culture informs protective factors. He welcomes any insight in how to incorporate culture in the Plan. Streamlining of the prevention specialist certification process is being worked on by the Coalition for Drug Free Hawaii and the University of Hawaii through contracts with ADAD. Areas being discussed include developing a road map for someone starting the certification process: what credits are required and where are classes offered. Also thinking about providing information to someone new to the field who may not know the trajectory of the career: what are next steps and or questions about the career that should be asked.</p> |   |                          |          |
| <p>10. Open Forum:</p> <p>Public comments on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commissions agenda at its next meeting.</p> | No community comments provided.   |   |                          |          |
| 11. Adjournment  | The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am  |   |                          |          |

**Next Meeting:            June 24, 2025**  
**9:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**In-Person Meeting**