

OUR PRIORITIES

1. EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Goal: To bring awareness of the dangers of drug use and provide strategies to prevent addiction.

2. SCREENING & EARLY INTERVENTION

Goal: To ensure every point of entry has protocols in place for addiction screening and early intervention.

3. TREATMENT SERVICES

Goal: To increase the array of evidenced-based treatment options for people with addictions and mental health concerns by expanding the network of mental health providers in both informal and formal settings.

4. RECOVERY SUPPORT

Goal: To ensure people in recovery have the coping skills to deal with daily stressors, craving, dependence, triggers, and are engaged in recovery activities.

5. HARM REDUCTION

Goal: To prevent overdose through the use of Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strips and offer low-threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other health care.

6. DATA ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

Goal: To identify in real time key data points such as overdose deaths, high utilizers of emergency room services due to overdose, administration of Narcan and lives saved and where, calls made to the poison center due to opioid poisoning, and other types of surveillance tracking.

OUR PARTNERS



HAWAII ISLAND

FENTANYL TASK FORCE



CONTACT US

✉ admin@hifff.org

🌐 hifff.org



**SCAN HERE
FOR RESOURCE
MATERIALS**

**He 'a'ali'i kū makani mai au,
'āohe makani nana e kulai.**

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

ABOUT US

OUR VISION & MISSION

HIFTF IN THE COMMUNITY

Fentanyl was first reported on Hawai'i Island in 2017: by 2020 it was showing up in tests of some persons seeking help for other substance use problems and addictions. By 2021 fentanyl was being laced into virtually every known street drug. Many were unaware of this, and used cocaine, methamphetamine, cannabis (marijuana), fake pain pills, and other substances to which powdered fentanyl was added.

In November 2021, a 14-year-old Hawai'i Island girl died from an unintentional ingestion of fentanyl. Although the official cause of death was not reported until 9 months later, community members and health professionals in the field knew quickly. A small group subsequently approached Mayor Mitch Roth and the coalition now known as the Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force (HIFTF) was formed. To effectively address the opioid and fentanyl epidemic, the Task Force knew that ALL unhealthy substance use would need to be addressed, especially use among our youth. Nobody goes from chewing gum to fentanyl, and now that virtually any drug can be laced with this deadly poison, no recreational drug use is safe. HIFTF is a community-based, volunteer driven, non-governmental, independent organization. Now with nearly 100 members - agencies and individuals - HIFTF is pursuing its mission and vision and has a detailed plan of action.

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

Mission
Our mission is to reduce the demand and supply of illicit drugs in all age groups, especially fentanyl through education, prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support activities, and we support law enforcement and judicial initiatives.

Our vision and mission are supported by our community members and partners.

DID YOU KNOW?

#1

Fentanyl is the **#1** cause of death for Americans age **18 - 45**.

1/8

Hawaii Island averages **1** overdose death every **8 days**.

1/26

Statewide, **1** person dies of an overdose every **26** hours.

3/11

Narcan saves **3** people every **11** days from an opioid overdose.

47

Hawaii Island reported **47*** overdose deaths over the last 12-month period.

*Provisional County Drug Overdose Deaths Feb 2025 (cdc.gov)



We continue to distribute Narcan, a life-saving medication that reverses an opioid overdose, free to communities throughout Hawaii Island

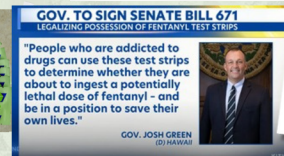
We believe in "prevention through education" and have provided 400+ trainings to various schools, businesses, and civic organizations throughout Hawaii



We support the efforts of our local law enforcement



We co-manage free Narcan vending machines on Hawaii Island



We supported legislation introduced by Senator Joy Buenaventura to make fentanyl test strips more widely available.

The legislation passed and Governor Green signed this into law. We continue to bring awareness and education of our legislators and other state leaders.



We continue to advocate for families and honor the memory of people lost to opioid overdose and illicit fentanyl poisoning.

