



# HAWAII HEALTH & HARM REDUCTION CENTER

*The New Chapter for Life Foundation and The CHOW Project*

## HHHRC Celebrates Pride



HHHRC showed up in full force for this year's Honolulu Pride Parade + Festival, with staff and friends marching, doing Zumba, and riding a double-decker bus from Ala Moana Beach Park to Kapiolani Park, where we had a featured table. Mahalo to [Waikiki Beach Marriott](#) and [Scarlet Honolulu](#) for joining the HHHRC contingent of marchers, dancers, and cascade of rainbow and trans flags!

"This year was Hawaii's largest ever Pride parade, and we are happy to celebrate the substantial progress that's been made in the social and legal

landscape over the last half century," said HHHRC Events Manager Andrew Ogata. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, widely considered to be the advent of the modern gay rights movement. The Parade + Festival was hosted by the [Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation](#).

Earlier in the month [Honolulu Beerworks](#) hosted an Aloha Pride Street Festival at its Kakaako tasting room. The brewery generously donated a portion of proceeds from the event to HHHRC. One part of Beerworks' generosity: crafting a special brew to benefit HHHRC called "Sparkles"—a blood orange, rainbow glitter saison—that was available on draft (and in limited release bottles that quickly sold out).



**Save the Date: "5B" Benefit Screening at Ward  
Theaters on 11/18**



Consolidated Theaters Ward will host a benefit screening of the acclaimed documentary “5B” on Monday, November 18, at 7 PM. According to the film’s website, “5B is the inspirational story of everyday heroes who took extraordinary action to comfort, protect and care for the patients of the first HIV/AIDS ward unit in the United States at San Francisco General Hospital.”

The film is co-directed by Academy Award-winning director Paul Haggis. [The Hollywood Reporter](#) calls it “an uplifting film about profound human decency and generosity of spirit.” [Variety](#) says that the film is “a slick, audience minded doc” that “grips the heart exactly when it needs to.”

Proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to HIV Care Services at HHHRC. [Tickets, which start at \\$8, are only available in advance online.](#)

[Click here to view the trailer for “5B” on YouTube.](#)

## Celebrating Hawaii’s Landmark Statewide Syringe Exchange



Pictured from left: Pam Lichty, Joe Thompson, Peter Whiticar, Kavika Puahi, Paij Emmanuel, Nancy Kern, and Ret. Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland

On August 29, at Harris United Methodist Church, HHHRC hosted members of the community and distinguished guests who were instrumental in establishing the nation's first statewide syringe exchange to cut the spread of HIV/AIDS among persons who inject drugs in 1989.

"Hawai'i was very fortunate to have forward-looking, compassionate public leadership that looked to proactively save lives by curbing the spread of HIV through the statewide provision of sterile syringes. Hawai'i remains fortunate to have an ongoing public commitment to health strategies that reduce rates of preventable disease transmission and death among vulnerable populations," said HHHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk, who began working in syringe access at the height of the AIDS crisis in Northern California.

The program opened with a short film from local director Alexander Bocchieri that looked at the history and ongoing impact of syringe exchange in Hawai'i. The film featured many who were on a subsequent panel discussion: Peter Whiticar of Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Harm Reduction Services Branch; former State Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland; Nancy Kern, who began 25 years at DOH with the Governor's Committee on AIDS; Pam Lichty, Co-Founder of Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i; Joe Thompson, HHHRC's Maui-based outreach specialist; and HHHRC Operations Director Kavika Puahi.

Whiticar encouraged those present to think about ways that Hawaii could again be at the leading edge of far-reaching public health policy.

There was also a memorial to honor those who have died from drug overdose in conjunction with [International Overdose Awareness Day](#), which officially fell on August 31.

## HHHRC's Paij Emmanuel Profiled in "Share Our Stories" Short Film

Our partners at [Hep Free Hawaii](#) recently released its fifth "Share Our Stories" short film about people in Hawaii living with hepatitis. The film, directed by Alexander Bocchieri, featured HHHRC Outreach Worker Paij Emmanuel, who

was [featured earlier this year in a Civil Beat column](#) by veteran journalist Denby Fawcett. [Click here to watch the 13-minute feature on YouTube.](#)



## HHHRC in the News

HHHRC Policy & Program Manager David Abitbol was featured on ThinkTech Hawai'i – Law Across Sea. You can watch his interview on the [ThinkTech YouTube Channel](#).

HHHRC's Jefferson Remo was quoted earlier this month in a [Hawaii News Now story on PrEP](#) (pre-exposure prophylaxis), which can prevent the transmission of HIV for those at increased risk for contracting the virus. If you could benefit from taking PrEP, regardless of your insurance status, please contact us to make an appointment.

HHHRC's Gabe Bautista was among those named recently in HIV Plus Magazine feature "[NMAC's Gay Men of Color Fellowship Produced an HIV Dream Team.](#)" Congratulations Gabe!

## Circle of Giving

Mahalo to those of you who "gave aloha" with Foodland through the month of September. Our organization received 100% of all customer donations given to us, plus each donation made with a Maika'i card was partially matched by a gift from Foodland and the Western Union Foundation. We are thankful for everyone who pledged.



give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

Donate Today

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