

Hawai`i Area 17 Standing Committee on Corrections

Inform the Delegate Assembly  
April 6-7, 2024

The Hawai`i Area 17 Standing Committee on Corrections met virtually on March 4 and April 1, 2024 to review the background information. The committee met on Saturday April 6 at the Area Assembly and we have two Additional Committee Considerations.

A. We reviewed the Singleness of Purpose paragraph in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.”

The committee did not agree to make the suggested change which currently reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.”

be revised to read:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholics and drug addicts using the same professional terminology. Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.”

The committee strongly urges that the Trustees Committee change other text from: “but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.”

To:

“but only those with a desire to stop drinking may attend closed meetings.”

C. The committee reviewed the video “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” and discussed the a) effectiveness, b) relevance and c) intended audiences for the video. The committee requests that the Trustees Committee replace the video to address the following issues:

a) Relevance: The committee found the video to be very outdated. There is a lack of diversity, especially Asian, Latina, and Women. Remove the ashtrays on the tables.

b) Effectiveness: The video does give a message of hope and is effective to increase Outside A.A. members’ interest in doing Corrections service work.

The video is too long,

c) Intended Audiences: could have separate shorter videos or separate chapters for each intended audience, and look at other media or platforms to make it more widely available, while protecting anonymity. Please obtain feedback from judges, police, corrections personnel as to the effectiveness with professionals.