2024 Hawai'i Addictions Conference

Speaker Bios

(In order of appearance)

• William Haning, MD, DFASAM, DLFAPA

William (Bill) Haning, MD, DFASAM, DLFAPA. Punahou '67, Princeton '71, JABSOM UHM '75 Bill is a physician and Emeritus Professor at the University of Hawai`i, John A. Burns School of Medicine. Certified in psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, and addiction medicine, he directs addiction training programs for that university; instructs and supervises medical students and resident physicians; chaired the ABPN Addiction Psychiatry

Examination Committee through 2019; and is President of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), where he chaired the Publications Council and Public Policy Coordinating Council and edited the ASAM Weekly. His last position in the Office of the Dean of Hawai`i's medical school was as the Director of Medical Student Education. Bill is now a Regent of the University of Hawai`i System. A retired Navy Captain who served with the USMC, he is the undeserving spouse of Libby Char, MD, FACEP, FAAEM.

• Mel Pohl, MD

Mel Pohl, MD, DFASAM is a Family Practitioner. He is the Senior Medical Consultant of the Pain Recovery Program at The Pointe Malibu Recovery Center. He is certified by the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) Dr. Pohl is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

He is the author of several books including A Day without Pain, revised edition, and The Pain Antidote -Stop Suffering from Chronic Pain, Avoid Addiction to Painkillers, and Reclaim Your Life. Dr. Pohl filmed a show for PBS on chronic pain which aired around the country in 2016.

• Graham Chelius, MD

Dr. Graham Chelius is a Family Physician who has been providing SUD treatment on Kaua'i island for 15 years, with Hawaii Health Systems Corporation-Kauai Region and has been addressing the needs of the incarcerated at Kauai Community Correctional Center for the last 5 years. He is passionate about bringing to life a continuum of care for behavioral health and SUD treatment in rural Kauai and was appointed the Behavioral Health Administrator at HHSC-KR this past year. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, WI and served in North Colorado Medical Center for his residency in Family Medicine in Greely, CO.

• Steve S. Alm, JD

Prosecuting Attorney Steven S. Alm was elected in November, 2020, with the mandate of Restoring Trust to the Honolulu Prosecutors Office. Prosecutor Alm was a Circuit Court Judge from May 2001 to August 2016. He presided at over 200 jury trials and thousands of guilty pleas and sentencings. In 2004, together with Probation Section Administrator Cheryl Inouye, he helped create Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement, also known as the HOPE Probation Program, versions of which are in more than 30 states in Probation, Pretrial, Parole, and in prisons to reduce over-reliance on solitary confinement and inmate assaults. He was the principal HOPE Probation judge until he stepped down from the bench. He also served three and a half years as Adult Drug Court judge. From 2005, until he left the bench, Judge Alm co-chaired the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions. In 2005, and again in 2015, he was asked to chair the 29-member, multi-agency Penal Code Review Committee. The 2015 effort, for example, made 84 statutory change recommendations which were all adopted by the Hawai'i Legislature and became law on July 1, 2016. In 2010, Judge Alm was named Hawaii Jurist of the Year. From 1994 through 2001, Judge Alm was the United States Attorney for the District of Hawai'i. During his tenure, the office focused on corruption, white collar crime, and large scale drug trafficking. The office also worked with police to investigate, capture, and prosecute the ring responsible for hundreds of violent purse snatchings aimed at Japanese tourists. He also led the law enforcement effort in the Weed & Seed strategy that reduced crime in Chinatown and Kalihi-Palama by over 70% in three years. From 1985 through 1994, Judge Alm served as a deputy prosecutor at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. He was a Felony Division Team Captain and then the Director of the District and Family Court Division. He personally prosecuted 26 jury trials, including 5 murder cases, the last being the murder of Honolulu Police Officer David Ronk.

• Gerald Busch, MD

Gerald Busch joined the faculty at University of Hawaii – Manoa in August 2019 after retiring from psychiatric practice in Houston, Texas for 27 years. He is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Program Director of Addiction Psychiatry. Dr Busch serves as the Forensic Psychiatry Site Director for Residency Training at the Oahu Community Correctional Center, as well as Director of Medical Education and Patient Care in the Queens Medial Center Psychiatry Emergency Department.

Dr Busch is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Psychiatry and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry and has added qualifications in Addiction Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. He is certified by the American Board of Preventive medicine in Addiction Medicine. He currently serves on the UH Manoa Faculty Senate and on the Senate Executive Committee. Dr Busch has a particular interest in the public health aspects of mental health and substance use disorders, having obtained a Master of Public Health degree at GWU in 2018. Dr. Busch served as the Chair of the Houston-Harris County Office of Drug Policy from 2004 to 2019.

• Zachary Bonzell, MD

Zack Bonzell received a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University and an MD from University of Southern California, where he was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He is currently a second-year psychiatry resident at University of Hawaii and is interested in a career in child and adolescent psychiatry.

• Treena Becker

Treen Becker has a PhD in Economics, in the fields of health, behavior, and econometrics. She completed her Postdoctoral research at Duke-NUS Biomedical School. Her current research interests are drug addiction, treatment and polysubstance use. Prior to grad school, she worked for the United Nations where one of her agency assignments was the UN Office of Drugs and Crime in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

• Susan Collins, PhD

Susan E. Collins, PhD, is a professor, licensed clinical psychologist, and codirector of the Harm Reduction Research and Treatment (HaRRT) Center at the University of Washington – Harborview Medical Center. She has been involved in substance use research, assessment and treatment for over 25 years and has disseminated this work in over 80 book chapters, abstracts and peer-reviewed articles, including the new evidence-based treatment manual from Hogrefe entitled "Harm Reduction Treatment for Substance Use." Through this work, she has had the privilege of collaborating with multidisciplinary research and clinical teams, community-based agencies, and people who use substances to codevelop and evaluate interventions that aim to reduce substance-related harm and improve quality of life for people who use substances and their communities. In 2016, she founded the Harm Reduction Treatment Track at Harborview Medical Center's Mental Health and Addiction Services. Currently, she works with patients as a clinician in the UW Medicine Adult Oupatient Psychiatry Clinic. To help other clinicians learn harm-reduction treatment strategies, she cofounded HaRT3S, a social purpose corporation developing trainings and tools for counselors, clinicians and people who use substances.

• Heather Lusk, LCSW, MSW - Executive Director - Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center

Heather Lusk, LCSW, MSW is the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center. Heather has over thirty years of experience dedicated to reducing health disparities and stigma as it relates to HIV, viral hepatitis and other chronic conditions linked to substance use. As the Chair of Partners in Care, Board Member in Oahu's Homeless Coalition, and Co-Director of Hep Free Hawaii, Heather works to support systems integration and the intersection of mental health, substance use, homelessness, chronic health conditions and the criminal legal system.

• Dawn Taniguchi, MD

Dawn Taniguchi MD, MPH is a primary care physician who is board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Hawaii John A Burns School of Medicine with her faculty role in the Addiction Medicine Fellowship. She completed training in Internal Medicine and General Internal Medicine Fellowship at the University of Washington. Her practice focuses on decreasing barriers of care for vulnerable populations and integrating addiction medicine into the primary care setting.

• Christina Wang, DNP, MPH, APRN-Rx, AGPCNP-C, AAHIVS

Christina MB Wang, DNP, MPH, APRN-Rx, AGPCNP-C, AAHIVS is a Nurse Practitioner and Medical Director with the Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center. She has focused her efforts on infectious disease and the intersection of behavioral health and substance use needs. She also provides wound care in the community with emphasis on street-based care. Additionally, she is passionate about teaching and providing experience for students within the community setting. Christina was the recipient of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii 2018 Public Health Award, the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians 2019 Advocacy Award, and the 2020 Pacific Business News 40 under 40 Award.

• Joseph Turban, MD

Joseph graduated from John A. Burns School of Medicine in 1994. After a career in Emergency Medicine, he transitioned into Addiction Medicine in 2007 and became the Medical Director of Ku Aloha Ola Mau, specializing in Medications for Opioid Use Disorder. In addition to managing the Methadone Maintenance Program, he has a thriving Buprenorphine practice. Joseph is a retired JABSOM faculty member, retiring in 2021 as an Associate Professor in Medicine, in the Office of Medical Education. He also had appointments as Associate Clinical Professor in the Departments of Surgery, Family Medicine and Community Health, and Psychiatry.

• Kanwardeep Singh Kaleka, MD, PhD

Dr. Kaleka is a family medicine and psychiatric physician that has broad interests in finding various ways to help people heal (mentally, physically and spiritually). Initially inspired by the book, "The Body Keeps the Score" by Bessel Van der Kolk, he approaches challenges that people have with their health through a trauma-focused lens. He works with various modalities including western allopathic medicine, attachment-focused EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing), OMT (osteopathic manipulative therapy), energy/vibrational medicine, various integrative therapies including Theta-Soma healing, which uses meditation and connecting to one's body to help address traumas lead to unhealthy issues and patterns. He is passionate about working with people who struggle with various forms of addiction as well as chronic pain, which often leads to various forms of addiction, and helping with the trauma underlying their suffering using a holistic approach integrating the variety of modalities he's been trained in.

• Miki Kiyokawa, MD

Miki Kiyokawa is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and Department of Psychiatry at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i. She is the Program Director of the Addiction Medicine Fellowship program. She completed her training with the Internal Medicine residency, Geriatric Medicine fellowship, and Addiction Medicine fellowship at the University of Hawaii. Her primary interest is teaching others about addiction and its management. Sample fields of interest are stigmatization of the addicted patient by health care providers, and diagnostic and monitoring instruments.