

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony in opposition of HB3197-2. I was able to attend the public hearing last night, in support of my husband who owns Ratchet Brewery, and I found it very eye-opening on both sides of the issue.

The takeaway from last night, that I think we can all agree on, is that no one on the opposition is disputing that our youth need to have programs available to them. Not only to help them through addiction, but mental health crisis, abuse, neglect, sexual assault, trafficking, you name it they should have access to the help. Our youth would benefit from having access to programs where they can feel safe, heard, shown they have a purpose.

I too have been the survivor of many of the aforementioned and I have also gone through Pacific Ridge Residential Treatment Center for addiction when I was 17, so I get it. My addiction stemmed from trying to escape the reality I found myself in, when it was too much to handle.

What I want to dispute is continuing to tax what seems to be a cash cow, under the guise of underfunded youth recovery programs, when it has been proven that the taxes we have already been paying are not being appropriately used by those who we put in charge of taking care of our youth. I get that the \$70M that was mentioned last night is gone, wasted, lost to who knows what, but doesn't that show us that continuing to throw money at this issue to an agency that is not proving their worth is an area of concern? If our business had such misappropriation of funds that we could not account for, we would be faced with criminal charges.

The money is already there, but we need to take a hard look at who we have in charge of managing those funds and get some fresh set of eyes in positions of power who can step back and use a critical eye to make those hard decisions with OHA's spending habits. On paper these are just numbers, but to us, the business owners of breweries, wineries, cideries, farms, distributors, the artist, the marketers, the farm labor, the kitchen staff, the front of the house, the dishwasher, the salesperson, the delivery drivers, etc., so on and so forth, this is also our livelihood.

My husband is already working 7 days a week, 12-14 hour days, on a shoestring budget. I often laugh to others and say that he is not only the owner, but maintenance, sales, electrician, plumber, HR, Administration, bouncer, bartender, delivery driver, etc. He does this not because of misappropriation of funds, but because the industry has changed, it is no longer that cash cow that everyone may think it is. HB3197-2 will have a significant impact on many of us who have put blood, sweat and tears to not just serve alcohol but to provide a place that is a community, a family to those that come in our doors. Please reconsider squashing this bill and force OHA to work within the confines of their budget, proving what they are doing with the back breaking tax money they get from us already.

Thank you!

Julie Miletta