

### Statewide program launched to fight meth addiction

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Brandon Hind

By Leland Kim - [bio](#) | [email](#)

HONOLULU (KHNL) - Crystal methamphetamine addiction costs Hawaii half a billion dollars a year. A new campaign hopes to reduce that dangerous trend.

Hawaii is number five in the country when it comes to crystal meth abuse. It is highly addictive, so the campaign targets teens. The goal is to make sure they hear the message before they try it.



Michael Broderick

A public service announcement (PSA) shows a man storming into a Laundromat. He is a meth addict, and his face shows signs of prolonged meth abuse. He scares the patrons and runs toward a young man in the corner. The young man is a clean version of himself, before he started abusing meth.

"This wasn't supposed to be your life!" the meth addict yells at his former self.

PSAs like this drive home the message of how crystal meth can ruin a person's life. It is one of the most addictive drugs out there.



"I always used to say, I'll never get addicted to meth," said Brandon Hind, a 17-year-old former meth addict. "I'll just use it once. After I used it that once, I kept doing in."

Hind fell into the wrong crowd.

"Peer pressure is a big one," he said. "Other people around you doing it thinking it's cool or wanting to feel good."



Hon. Michael Broderick, a judge at the First Circuit Family Court, is used to seeing people like Hind in his courtroom. He says crystal meth does not discriminate.

"I have seen ice destroy kids as young as 13 and people as old as 70," he said.

And the problem is getting worse. From 2005 to 2007, meth use among high school students jumped a whopping 87 percent, according to a poll of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students conducted by the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey.



"I see every day, day in and day out, the thousands of people, and I'm not exaggerating, the thousands of kids and adults whose lives have been ruined by crystal methamphetamines," said Broderick.

That's why the Hawaii Meth Project hopes to reduce ice addiction, by encouraging teenagers to not even try it.

"If you don't do it that once, it's guaranteed you won't do it,"

said Hind. "But once you try it, you start to like it and you use it more and more."

Advice from someone who knows the pain of meth addiction.

The Meth Project started in Montana back in 2005. At that time, Montana ranked fifth in the country for meth addiction. After two years, they've dropped way down to thirty nine.

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