

BILL028(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 177

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 19, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 13

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Rick Ramirez	Email: rramirez@hhrc.org	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 08:56 AM
<p>Testimony: As a healthcare provider who supports street outreach medicine and knows of the prevalence of overdose potential in the community, I support this bill to have doses of Narcan spray in bars in nightclubs. Thanks</p>		
Name: Larry Smith	Email: Larrysmith808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 10:15 AM
<p>Testimony: Please support this bill and other efforts to bring use of these harmful drugs under control. If you legalize Pot Now for Honolulu, there will be an option that is not a gate way drug and does not kill people. First pass this bill Next-legalize cannabis</p>		
Name: Jeremy Sakamaki	Email: jsakamaki@hhrc.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 04:18 PM
<p>Testimony: Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,</p> <p>I am writing today to express my strong support for Bill 28, which would require certain liquor dispensing establishments like bars and nightclubs to have doses of Narcan/Naloxone spray on premises in case of an accidental overdose.</p> <p>As a member of the community, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing opioid epidemic and the devastating impact it has had on countless individuals and families. One of the most pressing issues facing our society today is the increasing number of accidental overdoses, which often occur in settings such as bars and nightclubs where alcohol and other substances are readily available.</p> <p>By requiring establishments that serve alcohol to have Narcan/Naloxone spray on hand, we can help prevent needless deaths and save countless lives. Narcan/Naloxone is a safe and effective medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose within minutes, providing crucial time for emergency responders to arrive on the scene and administer further treatment if necessary.</p> <p>Moreover, requiring these establishments to carry Narcan/Naloxone spray sends a clear message that our community values the lives of all its members, regardless of their circumstances. It also provides a much-needed safety net for those struggling with addiction, who may be too afraid or ashamed to seek help on their own.</p> <p>I urge you to support Bill 28 and to take meaningful action to address the opioid epidemic in our community. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jeremy Sakamaki</p>		
Name: Erin Furuichi	Email: efuruichi@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 04:25 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support Bill 28, which would require liquor dispensing establishments to have doses of Narcan/Naloxone spray on premises, allowing them to quickly and safely provide life-saving measures to those who need it. Thank you for this opportunity.

Name: Heather Lusk	Email: hlusk@hhrc.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 04:25 PM

Name: Kavika Puahi	Email: kpuahi@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 04:36 PM

Testimony:

I would like to express my strong support of Bill 28. With the presence of fentanyl in the state's drug supply, we can expect to see a rise in accidental overdoses in our communities. This can be curtailed by providing naloxone across the state's nightlife scene to start. This will save lives, as seen in other states, with no risks. So, we as a state can either address this issue preemptively before it gets out of control or deal with the fallout after doing nothing. Please choose action. Thank you!

Name: Charles "Mono" Ah Nee-Bahn	Email: monoikki@yahoo.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 04:57 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Members,

My name is Charles "Mono" Ah Nee-Bahn, a resident in Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam's district. I work multiple jobs, as many do; one of these is as a part-time bartender in Waikiki. I humbly ask for your consideration in supporting Bill 28, which would require certain liquor dispensing establishments like bars and nightclubs to have doses of Narcan/Naloxone spray on premises in case of an accidental overdose. I have witnessed this life-saving drug/medication administered in emergency situations twice in my primary place of employment, where our staff provides street medicine to those who are most at-risk from unintentional overdose. Narcan/Naloxone saved these two individuals' lives in those two instances.

The recent proliferation of Fentanyl adulterating "street drugs" unbeknownst to consumers can lead to opioid overdose and if not overturned with Narcan/Naloxone can result in loss of life. The current opioid situation is very real and it affects people and families here in Hawaii. This is an important step in promoting public health, expanding access to emergency treatment in case of an overdose, and destigmatizing drug-related care.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Charles "Mono" Ah Nee-Bahn

Name: kristin hennig	Email: alohakristinhennig@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 05:01 PM

Testimony:

Narcan saves lives. With the widespread use of synthetic opioids in our community, it is more important than ever that we make this life-saving resource as available as possible to citizens in our communities.

Mixing opiates with alcohol increases the risk for overdose. As a person who has lived experience and have experienced the dangers of overdose, I know how easy it is to be in a dangerous situation.

I have changed my life, I am sober now and dedicate my life to helping those that are struggling with substance use and/or just looking for safer ways to use.

Having Naloxone available in restaurants, bars and nightclubs would ensure that patrons would be safer than not having Naloxone on hand. Every life is precious. Mahalo nui loa.

Name: R. Kelii Abordo	Email: keliiboy@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 05:14 PM
Testimony: It is important to have life saving tools at all venues where it could be effective. Lets take down these barriers to life saving care. Mahalo		
Name: KUNANI DREIER	Email: kunaned@gmail.com	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 06:35 PM
Testimony: My name is Kunani Dreier and I am in full support of this bill. Naloxone continues to be a life saving resource to our community. It makes perfect sense to have naloxone in all bars, clubs and other entertainment entities. I urge you to support these efforts.		
Name: Alan Burdick	Email: burdick808@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Progressive Democrats of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 08:40 PM
Name: Peggy Mierzwa	Email: peggy@hiphi.org	Zip: 96734
Representing: Hawaii Public Health Insititute	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 19, 2023 @ 06:33 AM
Name: Anika Martin	Email: amartin@hhhrc.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 19, 2023 @ 07:50 AM
Testimony: The disbursement of naloxone at establishments, such as bars and nightclubs, is an extremely effective action towards preventing accidental overdoses. At this time, opioid overdoses have been at an all-time high, and are affecting people and families here in Hawai'i. This is a very small thing to implement but can be very lifechanging for those who decide to engage in opioid use. This is an important step in promoting public health, expanding access to emergency treatment in case of an overdose, and destigmatizing drug-related care.		

April 18, 2023

Honolulu City Council

Testimony in support of Bill 28 – Naloxone in bars and nightclubs

Dear Council Chair Waters,

The Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction (HHHRC) Center strongly supports Bill 28 which would support Naloxone in the City and County of Honolulu's bars and nightclubs. In 2022 more people died of drug overdose than ever recorded in Hawaii, with a huge increase in fentanyl related overdoses. Naloxone is very safe (the FDA just made it over the counter) and can prevent death from opioid overdose. We have had deaths in our establishments that could be prevented with this bill.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC is willing to help provide training and dissemination of naloxone as resources allow – we have been doing so for the past 7 years and have been the primary agency in Hawaii dedicated to getting naloxone in spaces where it can save lives.

Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely



Heather Lusk, LCSW
Executive Director, Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center

Progressive Democrats of Hawaii

Post Office Box 51

Honolulu, Hawaii 96810

Honolulu City Council

Re: Bill 28 – Narcan-Naxalone emergency spray

Aloha!, Members of the Honolulu City Council:

Progressive Democrats of Hawaii **strongly support** Bill 28, which require certain liquor dispensing establishments, such as bars and nightclubs to have Narcan/Naloxone spray on premises in case of an accidental overdose by a patron or employee.

The opioid crisis is real. It directly affects many people and families here in Hawaii, and it indirectly affects all of us. This is an important first step toward promoting public health, to expand access to emergency treatment when there are overdoses, and to help destigmatize drug-related issues.

We believe that OTHER public accommodations should have Narcan/Naxalone spray available as well. We hope that Bill 28 will cause other businesses to at least voluntarily take this action as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-Chair

Progressive Democrats of Hawaii

Burdick808@gmail.com



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State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public
Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: April 18, 2023

To: Tommy Waters, Chair
Esther Kia'Aina, Vice Chair
Members of the Honolulu City & County Council

Re: Support for Bill 28 Relating to Naloxone

Mtg: Wednesday April 19, 2023 10:00AM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI) respectfully submits testimony in **support** of Bill 28 Relating to Naloxone with suggested clarifications. This measure would require that certain classes, kinds, and categories of liquor-licensed establishments maintain a specified amount of naloxone on their premises; and that managers be trained in the proper administration of naloxone.

This policy is an important one to address the increasing deaths from opioids in our communities. We ask you to consider amending the bill by using the term "appropriate personnel" instead of "manager" for those who should receive training, as sometimes a manager may not be on the premises. Furthermore, it should be clear that no one will be held liable for providing or administering this life saving medicine. It is only effective if used; therefore, we want to ensure there are no barriers to that use.

Naloxone is a highly effective opioid receptor antagonist, which can counter the effects of an overdose when administered immediately. The life-saving effect of this medicine has saved people's lives. It is so effective and safe that the FDA has approved it for over the counter sales.

Thank you for considering our testimony this measure that supports public health.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peggy Mierzwa'.

Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

ⁱ The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.