

BILL028(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 257

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

**HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)
Meeting**

Meeting Date: May 24, 2023 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 12

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Larry Smith	Email: larrysmith808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 19, 2023 @ 02:17 PM
Testimony: Please pass this bill to prevent medical emergencies.		
Name: Rick Ramirez	Email: rramirez@hhrc.org	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 19, 2023 @ 02:23 PM
Testimony: As a medical provider for the LGBTQ, homeless, and overall Honolulu community, we noted an increase in opioid overdoses that can come in many different forms of not necessarily related to illicit substances but also to prescribed substances as well. This is an ongoing national problem that can be further exacerbated by social settings. As a healthcare provider it is imperative for me to understand and note that there is an increase in this issue and fully recommend the support of this bill to have naloxone housed in clubs and nightclubs prior to this bill 28 that is being heard today. I fully endorse this bill and urge the representatives to approve this bill for immediate action.		
Name: Jeremy Sakamaki	Email: jsakamaki@hhrc.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 19, 2023 @ 03:47 PM
Testimony: Dear Committee Members, I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 28, which proposes the requirement for liquor dispensing establishments, such as bars and nightclubs, to have doses of Narcan/Naloxone spray on their premises. I urge you to consider the significance of this bill in addressing the devastating impact of the opioid crisis in our community. The opioid crisis is a pressing issue that affects individuals and families across Hawaii. The news is filled with heartbreaking stories of lives lost and families torn apart by accidental overdoses. It is evident that we need to take immediate action to combat this crisis and provide effective emergency treatment to those in need. By mandating the availability of Narcan/Naloxone spray in places where alcohol is served, Bill 28 can be a critical step towards saving lives. When an overdose occurs, time is of the essence, and having this life-saving medication readily accessible can mean the difference between life and death. Bars and nightclubs are often social environments where substance use can occur, and having Narcan/Naloxone on site ensures that assistance is readily available in case of an emergency. Furthermore, the passage of this bill would play a crucial role in destigmatizing drug-related care. Addiction and overdose are medical issues that require prompt and compassionate intervention. Requiring liquor establishments to have Narcan/Naloxone spray acknowledges that these places can potentially be high-risk environments for drug overdoses and promotes a culture of care and safety. I strongly believe that Bill 28 aligns with our shared goals of promoting public health and ensuring the well-being of our community. By increasing access to emergency treatment, we have the opportunity to save lives and provide individuals with a chance to seek further help and support for their substance use issues. I respectfully request your support for Bill 28 during the committee hearing on Wednesday, May 24. Let us take a proactive stance in addressing the opioid crisis in our state, protecting our community, and demonstrating our commitment to the health and well-being of all Hawaii residents. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Sincerely,		

Jeremy Sakamaki
State Homeless Outreach Program Coordinator

Name: Nikos Leverenz	Email: naleverenz@gmail.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 01:26 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kiaina, & Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of Bill 28, which would require commercial establishments that sell alcoholic beverages to carry a supply of naloxone to help reverse potentially fatal overdoses.

It was most welcome to see Councilmember Dos Santos Tam on Hawaii News Now relay the risks that come with the use of any opioid, including prescription opioids, with alcohol. The mixture can result in respiratory depression that can result in death.

Its salutary that some downtown businesses have already obtained naloxone—and trained their staff to use such should it be necessary. The state Department of Health has taken a proactive posture with respect to making nasal naloxone (Narcan) available at no cost to any resident upon request.

Hopefully the Council will engage in constructive conversations with state government officials to dedicate some level of funding from the opioid settlement to continue the broad provision of naloxone on Oahu, including those businesses that would be impacted by this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nikos Leverenz
Aliamanu

Name: Andrea Staley	Email: staley.andrea6@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 01:39 PM

Testimony:
The opioid crisis is real and it is affecting people and families here in Hawaii. This bill is important in promoting public health, expanding access to emergency treatment in case of an overdose, and destigmatizing drug-related care. Naloxone is not harmful to someone not experiencing an overdose and is life-saving for someone who is. Fentanyl is being cut into more and more illegal substances, including crystal meth and cocaine. Having naloxone available in bars and nightclubs is as critical as having an AED or fire extinguisher on-premises. It is a matter of life or death.

Name: Reina Purvis	Email: rpurvis@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 03:16 PM

Testimony:
This bill will help save lives. Not much more needs to be said.
Reina

Name: Reina Purvis	Email: rpurvis@hhrc.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: HHRC	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 03:18 PM

Testimony:
This bill will help save lives. That by itself should be enough for passage.

Reina		
Name: Rebecca Soon	Email: rebecca.ji.soon@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 07:15 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha nui e Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kiana, and Members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health:</p> <p>I write today in support of Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam's proposed Bill 28 to require establishments to carry Naloxone.</p> <p>We are seeing devastating effects of opioid overdoses across our County in numbers that will dwarf anything we have seen in recent years. Bars and similar establishments are uniquely situated to help mitigate potential overdoses.</p> <p>Given the crisis our community is facing, Bill 28 is a common sense measure on par with requirements of businesses to comply with health safety measures for grease traps, food handling, fire mitigation, etc. The public funding available to support our local businesses makes this a particularly reasonable requirement.</p> <p>Mahalo for the leadership this Committee and the Council is demonstrating in supporting efforts to ensure an ecosystem of support to our communities.</p> <p>Aloha, Rebecca Soon</p>		
Name: Al Katz	Email: akatz808@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 07:43 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I write in strong support of 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 recreationally drug use involving opioids and fentanyl-laced substances is unfortunately common in places such as nightclubs and bars where alcohol and partying take place, It is imperative that such establishments have Naloxone spray readily available so that any accidental opioid overdose can be reversed and a life saved.</p> <p>This bill is an important step in promoting public health, expanding access to emergency treatment in case of an overdose, and destigmatizing drug-related care.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your responsible vote in favor of this important and potentially life saving bill!</p> <p>Al Katz, MD, MPH</p>		
Name: Adrian Tam	Email: reptam@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 22, 2023 @ 08:06 PM
Name: Laurie Mizuno	Email: lauriei94@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 23, 2023 @ 08:19 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support 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>		

It is imperative that establishments where recreational drug use can occur has Naloxone spray readily available so that any accidental opioid overdose can be reversed and a life saved.

This bill is an important step in promoting public health, expanding access to emergency treatment in case of an overdose, and destigmatizing drug-related care.

Thank you in advance for your responsible vote in favor of this important and potentially life saving bill!

Name: Peggy Mierzwa	Email: peggy@hiphi.org	Zip: 96734
Representing: Hawaii Public Health Insititute	Position: Support	Submitted: May 23, 2023 @ 03:31 PM



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 22, 2023

Aloha Chair Matt Weyer and members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of Bill 28 (2023), "Relating to Naloxone," which would require certain establishments with liquor licenses carry doses of Naloxone.

Hawaii's opioid crisis worsening. The Hawai'i State Department of Health counted there were at least 220 deadly drug overdoses last year in Hawai'i. State epidemiologists believe this number will rise to 300 in 2023.

If we are going to reverse this trend, we need to make Naloxone easily accessibly - particularly in high-risk locations. As the Hawai'i State House Representative for District 24-Waikiki and Moi'iili, I represent a number of high-risk locations - particularly nightclubs and bars.

Bill 28 helps ensure that the business owners in my district are prepared for accidental overdoses. It will also reduce the number of fatal overdoses overall. This is something we need to do. I thank the Honolulu City Council for taking on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Adrian Tam



HIPHI Board

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
Chair
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer
ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Na'au Healing Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Titimahea Ta'ase, JD
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: May 23, 2023

To: Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kia'Aina, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Housing Sustainability and Health

Re: Support for Bill 28 Relating to Naloxone

Mtg: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:30 PM

Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ (HIPHI) respectfully submits testimony in **support** of Bill 28 Relating to Naloxone. 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 that will help to address the increasing deaths from opioids in our communities. We ask you to consider amending the bill to expand the parameters of those who would be trained in the administration of naloxone to include any "appropriate personnel" in addition to "manager" for those who would receive training. The more who are trained and gain knowledge of overdoses and the appropriate response will increase the success of the policy. 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.