

**BILL 28 (2023)**  
Testimony



May 22, 2023

Honolulu City Council

Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health

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

Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'āina, & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction (HHRC) 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.

HHRC'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, LGBQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHRC 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. We have already worked with several nightclubs due to recent overdoses in these venues and look forward to supporting implementation of this important measure.

Thank you for the chance to testify.

Sincerely

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