

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN
ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 982
Relating to Medical Amnesty**

SENATOR GILBERT S. C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4, Room Number: 016
2015, 9:10am

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** We support SB 982.

3 This measure seeks to improve the outcomes from drug poisoning episodes by
4 encouraging those who may be affected by an overdose, or those around the victim, to seek
5 medical attention by calling 911. It has been shown that the fear of arrest or prosecution may
6 cause unnecessary deaths and bad outcomes that might have been avoided if appropriate help
7 was sought sooner. This harm reduction strategy is one of ten most promising practices in
8 reducing prescription drug abuse, based on a comprehensive national review of policies and
9 approaches.¹ Similar legislation has been passed in seventeen other states and Washington, D.C.
10 In order for this measure to be effective, the public needs to be made aware of medical amnesty
11 as a lifesaving measure for individuals at risk for overdose.

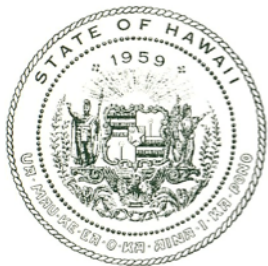
12 Drug Poisoning is a serious public health problem in Hawaii and across the nation.
13 Based on Hawaii death certificate records, fatal drug poisonings among Hawaii residents have
14 increased significantly over the last 20 years to make it the leading mechanism of fatal injuries,
15 surpassing deaths from motor vehicle crashes and falls. There was an almost two-fold increase
16 in deaths from drug poisonings from 78 deaths per year in the 1999-2003 period to 151 deaths
17 per year over the 2009-2013 period. Almost all of the fatal poisonings in the 2009-2013 period
18 were drug-related (88%, or 754 of 856). Prescription drugs were implicated in nearly half (45%)
19 of the unintentional poisonings, including 36% of deaths that involved opioid pain

¹ <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH2013RxDrugAbuseRptFINAL.pdf>

1 relievers. Death certificate codes further indicated that 52% of these deaths involved illicit
2 substances, most commonly methamphetamine (43%) and cocaine (8%).

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU
CARMILLE LIM
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH
MARILYN LEE
JUDY KERN

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
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235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

March 3, 2015

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

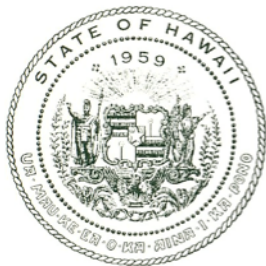
Re: Testimony in Support, SB 982, Relating to Medical Amnesty

The Commission is support of SB 982, which would provide limited immunity for individuals who seek medical assistance for victims of alcohol or substance overdose.

Twenty one states and Washington, D.C. have similar legislation which allows limited immunity for individuals (most frequently close friends or family members) who call 911 to prevent an alcohol or drug overdose from becoming fatal. The most common reason people do not call 911 is fear of police involvement. This reasoning is more prevalent among young people, although this demographic has the highest rates of unintended alcohol related deaths. Many colleges and universities have instituted this policy because it ensures the well being and safety of students.

This policy does not prevent prosecution for certain offenses, but it does allow limited immunity for individuals who witness someone close to them potentially overdosing. This policy would allow individuals to come to the assistance of another, without fear that calling 911 would result in their subsequent arrest for a minor infraction with the law. This policy doesn't seek to "reward" those who engage in potentially illegal behaviors. Rather, it seeks to encourage bystanders who may otherwise hesitate to act. The Commission supports SB 982. Thank you for your consideration.

HAWAII
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Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

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Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 982 – Relating to Health

TO: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro,
Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Wednesday, March 4 2015; 9:10 AM Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Strong Support SB 982 relating to medical amnesty.

Unintentional drug overdoses are on the rise in Hawaii

According to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), overdose was the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths in the State in 2013 and has been on the rise over the past five years. This mirrors fatal overdoses on the U.S. continent where 100 people die everyday from overdose and it is the leading cause of accidental death. These overdoses can be prevented with a comprehensive approach including education, prescription drug monitoring and training people how to prevent and respond appropriately to overdoses.

SB 982 will save lives by making it more likely for witnesses to call 911

The number one reason cited among CHOW participants and in other research for not calling 911 in response to an overdose is fear of arrest for drug possession. SB 398/SB 982 will give amnesty for drug possession, but will not protect people from arrest or prosecution for other offenses, such as drug trafficking. At least seventeen other states have similar so called “good samaritan” legislation and over 240 college campuses have policies which provide protection from prosecution for witnesses who call 911. This bill prioritizes saving lives over drug possession.

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families and communities adversely affected by drug use, especially people who inject drugs, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug-related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose. CHOW supports the optimal health and well-being of people affected by drug use throughout the State of Hawaii. CHOW has operated the statewide syringe exchange program for the past twenty years. In 2010, CHOW surveyed participants about their experience with overdose and more than half of CHOW’s participants had witnessed an overdose in the past two years. Unfortunately, we have lost more than one participant to overdose when 911 was not called out of fear.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk

Executive Director

CHOW Project

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 1:49:17 AM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Tischler	Americans for Safe Access Big Island Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Big Island Americans for Safe Access strongly support the medical amnesty bill because it will save lives. Simply put, if we value human lives there is no reason to do anything else. In Hawaii in 2013 there were 200 overdosed accidental deaths. Many of those deaths would have not occurred if people felt safe from prosecution when they phoned for medical assistance. Please pass this very important bill.

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Hawaii's Voice for Sensible, Compassionate, and Just Drug Policy

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, M.P.H., PRESIDENT

DATE: March 4, 2015, ROOM 016, 9:10 a.m.

RE: S.B. 982 RELATING TO MEDICAL AMNESTY – **IN SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm President of the Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG), the government affairs arm of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.

The Drug Policy action Group strongly supports SB 982.

Let me begin by thanking you for hearing this important bill today. Medical amnesty laws, also known as Good Samaritan laws, are in place now in 20 states and at many colleges and universities, with more under consideration every year. The measure itself explains how overdose deaths in Hawaii - from illegal drugs, prescription drugs, and alcohol - have increased greatly in recent years. As we hopefully move towards a compassionate, evidence-based, public health approach to drug control, this type of measure is literally a way to save lives.

As noted in Section 1 of the measure, if criminal punishment is intended to deter drug use, it is clearly too late for that approach when a person has suffered an overdose. In any case many of the overdose deaths reported in Hawaii and elsewhere were from prescription drugs or alcohol rather than illicit drugs.

Therefore it behooves us to suspend any moral judgments we may harbor about those who misuse drugs or alcohol and instead look at the best ways to save lives and help people to call for medical assistance without fear of legal repercussions.

All too often the victims' companions abandon the victim out of fear of arrest or literally dump him outside of an emergency room. This is an inhumane yet understandable

response under current law, but it is clearly no way to deal with a life threatening medical emergency.

This issue is personal to me since I lost a nephew to an overdose death fifteen years ago. I was visiting his mother last year when Phillip Seymour Hoffman's death vividly brought back that terrible time to my family and me.

His death and those of so many others underscores the urgency of getting this type of medical amnesty bill in place immediately to prevent more of such tragedies.

I urge this committee to move S.B. 982 on to the full Senate today so that this important and necessary discussion can continue. Again thank you for hearing this measure and for giving us the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii's voice for sensible, compassionate, and just drug policy

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

9:10 a.m.

Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Executive Director Rafael Kennedy,

In strong support of SB982 - Relating to Medical Amnesty

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the committee,

Mahalo for taking the time to hear this medical amnesty bill. It is important that the legislature pass a bill providing these protections soon. Drug overdose is on the rise in Hawaii and around the nation. According to the CDC, it has been the leading cause of injury related death for the past two decades, and kills more than 100 people each day in the U.S.¹ From 2009-2013, drug overdose was the leading cause of fatal injuries **in Hawaii**, surpassing falls, motor vehicle accidents, drowning and other injury-related deaths.^{2 3} What's more, all indications are that as we tighten controls on prescription painkillers, **the problem will worsen.**⁴

1 Paulozzi, Leonard J. "Prescription Drug Overdoses: A Review." *Journal of Safety Research* 43, no. 4 (September 2012): 283-89. doi:10.1016/j.jsr.2012.08.009.

2 "Drug Abuse 2013 Data for Hawaii." Accessed February 10, 2015. <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/drugabuse2013/release.php?stateid=HI>.

3 Hawaii Department of Health Injury Prevention and Control Section. "Hawaii Poisoning Data Summary," September 2013. http://health.hawaii.gov/injuryprevention/files/2013/09/poisoning_Data-Summary0812a.pdf.

4 Khazan, Olga. "How the War on Painkillers Created the New Heroin Epidemic." *The Atlantic*, October 30, 2014.

The best data we have on users of intravenous drugs comes from the syringe exchange program run by the CHOW project. They have reported that half of the participants in Hawaii's syringe exchange program witnessed an overdose in the past two years. One quarter experienced an overdose themselves. This not only underscores the urgency of this legislation, but shows that **it will be effective**; most overdoses happen in the presence of other people, **people who can call for help**.¹⁷ Other states and the District of Columbia have already implemented policies such as these, to great effect. It has been shown to be the single most important factor in accessing treatment for overdose.⁵

Fear is the primary reason people cite for not calling for help.⁶ This fear of prosecution drives people to convince themselves that their friends will be alright without medical attention, to waste time dropping victims outside the hospital, or to undertake risky methods to revive victims on their own. These medical amnesty bills will go a long way toward assuaging that fear, and at **very little expense**.⁷ The truth is that only in a tiny minority of cases (according to a survey of officers conducted in Washington state, less than one percent) will this immunity affect whether or not victims and witnesses of overdose are in fact subject to criminal penalties.⁸ The **promise** of immunity however will give them the security to call for help, and will therefore be instrumental in helping to save many, many lives.

Much mahalo for your time and effort on these bills. This is an important and meaningful step for Hawaii, and along with increasing access to Naloxone, is a critical companion to efforts to curb prescription painkiller misuse.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/10/the-new-heroin-epidemic/382020/>.

5 Melissa Tracy, Tinka Markham Piper. "Circumstances of Witnessed Drug Overdose in New York City: Implications for Intervention." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 79, no. 2 (2005): 181-90. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2005.01.010.

6 Melissa Tracy, Tinka Markham Piper. "Circumstances of Witnessed Drug Overdose in New York City: Implications for Intervention." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 79, no. 2 (2005): 181-90. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2005.01.010.

7 Burris, Scott; Beletsky, Leo; Castagna, Carolyn; Coyle, Casey; Crowe, Colin; and McLaughlin, Jennie Maura, "Stopping an Invisible Epidemic: Legal Issues in the Provision of Naloxone to Prevent Opioid Overdose," *Drexel Law Review* (Philadelphia, PA: Earle Mack School of Law, Spring 2009), Vol. 1, Number 2, p. 277. http://prescribetoprevent.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/burris_stopping... - See more at: <http://www.drugwarfacts.org/cms/Overdose#Botline>

8 Banta-Green, Caleb J., Leo Beletsky, Jennifer A. Schoeppe, Phillip O. Coffin, and Patricia C. Kuszler. "Police Officers' and Paramedics' Experiences with Overdose and Their Knowledge and Opinions of Washington State's Drug Overdose-Naloxone-Good Samaritan Law." *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine* 90, no. 6 (December 2013): 1102-11. doi:10.1007/s11524-013-9814-y.

Rafael Kennedy
Executive Director,
Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii works to educate policymakers and the public about effective ways of addressing drug issues in Hawai'i with sensible and humane policies that reduce harm, expand treatment options, and adopt evidence-based practices while optimizing the use of scarce resources.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:11:55 AM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Sestak	AAUW Windward	Support	No

Comments: Will help save lives..

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Saturday, February 28, 2015 10:22:38 AM

SB982

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 982 – RELATING TO HEALTH

TO: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair; Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Jean L. Mooney

Hearing: Wednesday March 4, 2015 9:10 AM, Room 016

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT for SB 982 relating to medical amnesty.

As a former opiate addict, I urge you to please consider this LIFE-SAVING Bill. In the past when I was using, three people overdosed right in front of me; instead of running, I stayed and did the right thing, I provided Rescue Breathing until the Paramedics arrived. (most people would have run) *In fact, I know several people who did; they were terrified of facing legal consequences were they to stay and help the person overdosing.*

I am truly blessed to be in a position to help people who have addictions as I once had, in the work I now do. In fact, a co-worker just recently week saved someone's life who was overdosing, whose "friends" didn't stick around to help. If SB 982 were passed, it would *save lives of people who are someone's son, daughter, grandchild or other relative.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 982, Relating to medical amnesty.

Hawaii, like much of the U.S. is experiencing an overdose epidemic with over 1,500 people in Hawaii dying from accidental drug overdoses over the past decade and **deaths from accidental drug overdose was the leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii from 2009-2013. Allowing people to do the **right thing and render aid** to someone without fear of repercussions is the only choice to make.

Thank you for listening,

Jean L. Mooney

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM*
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 11:34:16 AM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: imaxera@chowproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 1:23:27 PM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 982 relating to 911 medical amnesty. According to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), overdose was the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths in the State in 2013 and has been on the rise over the past five years. This mirrors fatal overdoses on the U.S. continent where 100 people die everyday from overdose and it is the leading cause of accidental death. These overdoses could be prevented with a comprehensive approach including education, prescription drug monitoring and training people how to prevent and respond appropriately to overdoses. SB 982 will save lives by making it more likely for witnesses to call 911. Many active drug users are afraid to call 911 in response to an overdose due to fear of being arrested for drug possession. SB 982 will give amnesty for drug possession, but will not protect people from arrest or prosecution for other offenses, such as drug trafficking. At least seventeen other states have similar so called "good samaritan" legislation and over 240 college campuses have policies which provide protection from prosecution for witnesses who call 911. This bill prioritizes saving lives over drug possession. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Please support saving lives by supporting SB 982.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 982 – Relating to Health

TO: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
Committee on Judiciary and Labor FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Wednesday, March 4 2015; 9:10 AM Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Strong Support SB 982 relating to medical amnesty.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), overdose was the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths in the State in 2013 and has been on the rise over the past five years. This mirrors fatal overdoses on the U.S. continent where 100 people die every day from overdose and it is the leading cause of accidental death. These overdoses can be prevented with a comprehensive approach that encourages bystanders to respond appropriately to overdoses. The majority of drug overdoses occur in the presence of other people and the number one reason cited for bystanders failing to call for help is fear of police involvement.

SB 982 will save lives by making it more likely for witnesses to call 911. At least seventeen other states have similar so called “good samaritan” legislation and over 240 college campuses have policies which provide protection from prosecution for witnesses who call 911. This bill appropriately prioritizes saving lives over prosecuting individuals for drug possession. As a public health researcher and a community member interested in seeing Hawaii take effective and compassionate steps to reduce these needless deaths, I strongly support SB 982.

Sincerely,

Mary Tschann
Honolulu

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 982 – Relating to Health

TO: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
Committee on Judiciary and Labor FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Wednesday, March 4 2015; 9:10 AM Conference Room 016

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SB 982 will save lives by making it more likely for witnesses to call 911. At least seventeen other states have similar so called “good samaritan” legislation and over 240 college campuses have policies which provide protection from prosecution for witnesses who call 911. This bill appropriately prioritizes saving lives over prosecuting individuals for drug possession. As a public health researcher and a community member interested in seeing Hawaii take effective and compassionate steps to reduce these needless deaths, I strongly support SB 982.

Sincerely,

Michael Long
Honolulu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:00:28 AM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/3/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simone Lemieux	Individual	Support	No

Comments: From 2009-2013 drug poisoning/overdose was the leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii. Drug overdose deaths are preventable. The most common reason cited for not calling 911 for help during and overdose is fear of police involvement.

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SB982

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 8:09:11 PM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Katz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a physician and public health professional, I am strongly supportive of SB982. Good Samaritan laws which have been enacted in other jurisdictions have demonstrated life saving potential in cases of drug overdose. This measure (if passed) will remove barriers that may prevent the timely provision of first line responses and life saving interventions in cases of drug overdose. Passage of this bill will allow Hawaii to have policies in keeping with national best practices. Thank you for your positive consideration of this important policy.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:57:43 PM

SB982

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah M. Koonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in support of this bill because I am a former substance abuse counselor at a Honolulu methadone clinic and am aware of the difficulty many addicts have trying to reduce their use and work towards abstinence. Allowing amnesty for seeking help in cases of overdose is humane and allows for intervention opportunities. Please support this bill. Thank You. Leah M Koonce 85-638 Farrington hwy Waianae, Hawaii 96792 (808)561-9521

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB982 on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM
Date: Monday, March 02, 2015 2:54:22 PM

SB982

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 4, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: On 2/3/15 I witnessed an overdose while doing outreach in Chinatown. I had just finished doing a housing assessment with a man and he had gone down the street to his van, that her and his girlfriend were living in. He came rushing back to me, telling me that his girlfriend "wasn't right" and asked for my help. I followed him down the street and immediately recognized an overdose. She was hunched and unresponsive. Her lips were blue and she wasn't breathing. I helped him take her out of the van and lay her flat on the sidewalk. I told him we had to call 911 and he began to panic. The paperwork for his van (registration/insurance) was not current and he was worried that his vehicle, their home, would be impounded. We wasted precious moments arguing before I called 911 anyways. The operator guided me through nearly five minutes of chest compressions before the fire department and EMS arrived. The woman lived. But I've spent many moments since thinking about what would have happened if someone hadn't insisted on called 911. Would she have lost her life because her partner was too afraid to call for help? No one should be afraid to call for the help needed to save a life. I strongly support this Bill and urge you to do the same. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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