

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

391

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2015

RE: S.B. No. 982

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Health and Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B.
No. 982 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL AMNESTY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish limited immunity for individuals who seek medical assistance for themselves or others experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other medical emergency.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, Medical Amnesty Initiative, and five individuals.

Your Committees find that Good Samaritan policies, also known as medical amnesty, are life-saving measures that are in the best interest of the public's health, safety, and welfare. These policies facilitate responsible decision-making by shielding individuals from punishment when they seek medical attention during an emergency involving alcohol and controlled substances.

Your Committees further find that if criminal punishment is intended to deter drug abuse, it clearly is too late to deter abuse when a person is already suffering from an overdose. Good Samaritan policies should not be perceived as a "get out of jail free card" or a reward for illegal drug use. Rather, they enable individuals to make potentially life-saving decisions promptly and without hesitation.

2015-1508 SSCR SMA.doc



As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 982 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Health and Public
Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs,



WILL ESPERO, Chair

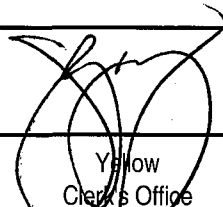


JOSH GREEN, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 982	Committee Referral: HTH / PSM, JDL	Date: 2/11/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GREEN, Josh (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
GABBARD, Mike				✓
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	5	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

