

**May Mizuno**

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**From:** Shannon Wood [swood@hoku.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2008 8:22 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** SB2373 SD1 - RELATING TO PSEUDOEPHEDRINE SALES

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**Shannon Wood  
P.O. Box 1013  
Kailua, HI 96734  
Cell Phone: 224-4496**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
10:30 am  
Wednesday, March 12, 2008  
Conference Room 329**

**SB2373 SD1 - RELATING TO PSEUDOEPHEDRINE SALES  
STRONGLY OPPOSE**

**TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH:**

My name is Shannon Wood, a Kailua, O`ahu resident, speaking only as an individual on my own behalf and not representing any group or organization.

**I continue to oppose SB2373 SD1 - RELATING TO PSEUDOEPHEDRINE SALES for the following reasons.**

Probably the most important is that there is no indication that such a law is needed. The restrictions placed on behind-the-counter purchases of *pseudoephedrine* in decongestant products over the past several years have worked in that the number of local meth labs have decreased significantly. Ice use is down & arrests are up because the it is far more hazardous to bring in either the raw materials from other countries or the finished product itself than for small-time dealers to set up small-time labs. The number of "ice labs" using these drug store products here in Hawai`i has decreased by almost 90% in just a little over two years.

No proof has been submitted by any law enforcement agency that the current laws requiring the product to be sold behind-the-counter do not work.

Instead, mainland ice labs are bringing in their raw materials from China, Thailand, Mexico, and other countries proving that we do indeed live in a global economy.

There is no hard unbiased data to support this statement as filed in the *Standing Committee Reports 2373 and 2669*:

*"Your Committee finds that with the decrease in the quality of methamphetamine and the increase in its street price, it is inevitable that criminals will revert back to manufacturing their own high quality methamphetamine using pseudoephedrine products obtained from retail distributors. A study conducted in 2004 indicated that there were 1,883 retail stores in the State that were able to sell pseudoephedrine products, and most of these stores were not pharmacies and were unable to verify prior pseudoephedrine sales with their other retail counterparts. Thus, an individual would have the ability to visit multiple retail chain stores and obtain 3.6 grams of pseudoephedrine per visit without the retailer being able to verify or track the individual's previous purchases that day."*

**NOTE:** The statistics quoted pre-date the current law which requires a three-step verification process in order to purchase these products.

In fact, crystal methamphetamine use is way down due in part to current laws and to increased educational efforts about its impacts. Unfortunately, drug use in general is not because addicts are switching over to cocaine or heroin. This bill will doing nothing to address these issues.

Almost as important is the fact that **these are legal behind-the-counter non-prescription products**. Why not get these products banned from being produced & marketed? If this *Legislature* feels strongly enough to even give serious consideration to a law like this, then you should be hammering on the doors of *Congress* to get them to ban the products outright.

Furthermore, it is a **HUGE** invasion of privacy for any government agency to have this information as to who buys cold and allergy medications. How will this information be used? I regularly buy these products at Long's - can I expect midnight raids or being hauled into court to justify my spending \$5 a month on these **behind-the-counter medications**? All I can think of is that the purpose of this bill is to harass retailers into discontinuing carrying these products which means that those of us with allergies will either be forced to use ineffective medications, pay more for them because they'll now require a prescription, or explore the dark recesses of the drug underworld in order to breathe normally.

Finally, there are the costs to implement this legislation on the retailer as well as the *Department of Public Safety*. On average, it takes approximately 10 minutes for a clerk to process a **behind-the-counter** transaction today. With this proposed legislation, you'll increase the time required by at least a couple of minutes.

Although there is no doubt that "ice" has caused great suffering for some 10,000 users and their families & friends here in Hawai'i, this bill would do absolutely nothing to help them out. All it will do is make it look as if quote **The Government** unquote is doing something about drugs. Public policymakers should be investing in treatment and education rather than expensive & ineffective recording systems.

Unless the law enforcement community can demonstrate to an independent third party such as the *Legislative Auditor* that there is a need for this bill because earlier legislation is **NOT** working, I urge that you hold **SB2373 SD1 - RELATING TO PSEUDOEPHEDRINE SALES** and spend our taxpayer dollars on real solutions such as treatment and education rather than passing a law which will have no impact on addressing community concerns about drug addiction.

*Mahalo* for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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