



LATE

Friday, March 20, 2009, 9:00am, CR 329

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President
Philip Hellreich, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
April Donahue, Executive Director
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Re: SB 1073 RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
Repeals the exception that allows smoking in correctional facilities.
Effective 7/1/50. (SD1)

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure.

While it could be argued that nicotine-addicted prisoners would be deprived of their ability to feed their addiction to nicotine, it could just as equally be argued by smokers, non-smoking inmates and prison employees that the prison failed in its duty to provide a safe place for each of these populations to spend time.

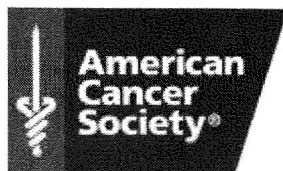
Furthermore, the prison physician could prescribe nicotine replacement treatments, such as nicotine transdermal patches, oral nicotine ("Commit") tablets, or inhaled nicotine ("Nicotrol").

Smoking kills. Nicotine is the only product, made in America, that, when used as directed, kills the user. There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. It is as dangerous as Radon.

The state has an obligation to provide a safe residential facility for the prisoners and a safe workplace for prison employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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LATE

March 18, 2009

Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Hearing:

9:00: A.M., Friday, March 20, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329

RE: SB1073, SD1, Relating to Correctional Facilities

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of Committee on Health. My name is George Massengale and I am here on behalf of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1073, SD1, which repeals the exception that allows smoking in correctional facilities.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., was founded in 1948, and is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. This includes strongly advocating for strong tobacco control policies.

Four years ago, I was hired by the American Cancer Society to coordinate advocacy efforts directed at passing Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law. The original smoke-free bill did not have an exception for correctional facilities. It was put in at the request of the Director of Public Safety who expressed behavioral concerns. (Prisoners who were not able to smoke would become a behavioral management problem.) Needless to say I was completely mystified by the director's concerns having previously worked as a Probation/Parole Officer for the Alaska Department of Corrections. I point out that Alaska's correctional system was **smoke-free, as are the two largest prison systems in the United State, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBP) with 198,000 inmates and the California Department of Corrections (CDOC) with 174,000 and neither FBP or CDOC experienced any major problems.**

With respect to SB1073, SD1, the Society believes it is time to bring the state correctional system in line with the rest of the state in providing a smoke-free working environment and smoke-free correctional facilities. We wholeheartedly support SB1073, SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale".

George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 7:10 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mz9995@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1073 on 3/20/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2009 9:00:00 AM SB1073

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Zehner
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
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Submitted on: 3/20/2009

Comments:

I'm opposed to this measure because it binds the hands of prison officials concerning this matter.

While prisons are already taking actions to ban smoking inside the facility, having this be part of state law would take away any flexibility to deal with problems that may occur such as union issues, civil liberties issues, or blackmarket problems.