

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

FROM: Tracy Ah Mook Sang

MEASURE: **SB2474** - Relating to Intoxicating Liquor Violations Involving Minors

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

DATE: Friday, March 12, 2010
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Standing Committee on Health,

I am here today in support to SB 2474. My name is Tracy Ah Mook Sang and I am the mother of Makamae Ah Mook Sang who passed away on 7/30/2009 from Alcohol Poisoning. She was 15 years old and would have been 16 on Nov. 8th. She attended a party with 2 friends and drank alcohol.

As our family sat together days after my daughters passing, trying to make sense of it all, trying to play out in our minds what could have happened that night, what made it impossible for my daughter not to be alive today. One of the topics of discussion was that her friends that Makamae was with must have or could have been in fear of calling or getting her the medical help she desperately needed due to the fact that they were intoxicated them selves and afraid of getting into trouble. As I tried to put my self into their shoes, and tried to imagine being their age, faced with this situation; I can imagine how scared they must have been. At no point did her friends or the people that was there at the party attempt to call or get the medical help she needed prior to her passing away that night/morning.

If this bill gets passed and become law, I truly feel that if a minor is faced with a situation of rendering aid to a person that they may be with that may be suffering from alcohol poisoning, that they would not hesitate to get that person Medical help. If this law was in effect back on July 30th 2009, maybe, just maybe my daughter's life could have been saved. Since my daughters passing, I've been told by people that I know, that friends or families of theirs have experienced teens having alcohol poisoning, but got the medical attention that they needed and survived. One of the incidents that was told to me was, that a bunch of friends was afraid of getting into trouble for drinking, but dropped their friend who had to much to drink off at an emergency room at a hospital, called the parent of that child to tell that mom that her daughter was at the emergency room and hung up the phone. They did not give the name of the hospital or who they were, but at least they got their friend the Medical attention she needed and that child's life was saved. The mother of that child had to frantically call every hospital just trying to find out which one

her daughter was in. I've heard at least 3 more stories of teens or very young college age students here in Honolulu with similar stories.

I am doing everything I possibly can to go out to the High Schools around the island, to educate these students and share with them the dangers of drinking alcohol and how fatal it can be along with sharing our tragedy with them in hopes that it will touch their hearts in some way, for them to think twice when faced with having to make decisions to drink or do any type of drugs. I do tell them, that I would hope that our loss would make a difference in their decisions so that Makamae's death would not be in vain.

In closing, I would like to plead with you to do everything in "YOUR" power to help this bill get passed, so that we all can rest assure that we have done everything we could possibly do to prevent another death from happening to our teens and minors. One life loss to alcohol poisoning is one to many. It would be so devastating to me if ever another youth's life was taken because a fellow youth that was with that person and was afraid of getting into trouble, if called for help.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my testimony on behalf of my self, my family and friends, but most of all on behalf of my precious daughter Makamae Ah Mook Sang. Aloha