

COMMITTEES : HMS/HTH

ROOM : 16

HEARING DATE: 2/04/2010 AT 2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Ige and member of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health,

I wish to testify in support of SB2474 "RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR VIOLATIONS INVOLVING MINORS". I wish to testify in person as to my personal story.

Mahalo,

Tracy Ah Mook Sang

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 12:17 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: SB2474 to be heard Thursday, February 4th at 2:45pm in Room 016

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Human Services Committee Members

Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Health Committee Members

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate
881 Akiu Place
Kailua, HI 96734

DATE: February 4, 2010

RE: Support for SB2474, Relating to Intoxicating Liquor Violations Involving Minors, with suggestion

As a former therapist whose worked extensively with juvenile offenders and as a parent, I am VERY happy to see such a measure that encourages responsibility to one's peers and promotes being "a Good Samaritan".

While I know the minor who receives medical attention will learn a very hard, painful and nauseating lesson, I've also had the misfortune to see kids who've lived to survive another day use such occasions as a "badge of honor" among their peers post-crisis. Whether the medical incident is a result of an accidental over-indulgence, binge-drinking or a potential "wake-up call" for a minor whose developed a serious alcohol problem, this is a "scared straight" moment that I think should not be allowed to slip away.

SUGGESTION: For the minor who survives such an incident, some form of education or treatment should be warranted not only for the minor, but for the minor's parents as well. (Unfortunately, I've also had to deal with parents who have viewed an over-indulgence as "No big deal", binge-drinking as "a growing pain" and who've chuckled off a kid's near-death experience as "stupidity" on the child's part saying the child "will know better next time".)

When a minor turns to drugs and/or alcohol, it is symptomatic of a larger problem, typically not just peer pressure. A crisis such as this (where a minor actually needs medical attention) is an opportunity to nip a problem or potential problem in the bud, so I hope you'll find some way to add an educational or treatment component to this proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate