

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1217, RELATING TO BATH SALTS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Thursday, February 3, 2011 **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Mark K. Miyahira, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports the intent of this measure but has concerns about it.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the definition of "dangerous drugs" to include mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine, also known as MDPV.

While the Department supports the intent of the bill, it believes that this measure may violate the Hawaii Constitution, article III, section 14, which requires that "each law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." While it has been reported that MDPV has been marketed and sold as a "bath salt", the measure proposes to amend the definition of "dangerous drugs", which is beyond the scope of the subject matter of "bath salts".

The Department prefers the language in House Bill No. 1085, Relating to Controlled Substances, which proposes to add mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylamphetamine to schedule I of Hawaii's Uniform Controlled Substance Act.

Mephedrone is a synthetic stimulant that is produced in the form of tablets or a powder, which users can swallow, snort, or inject, producing similar effects to MDMA (3,4-

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine), colloquially known as ecstasy, amphetamines, and cocaine.

Presently, there have been no formal published studies on the effects of mephedrone on humans and its long term effects are unknown.

Users have reported that mephedrone causes euphoria, stimulation, an enhanced appreciation for music, an elevated mood, decreased hostility, improved mental function, and mild sexual stimulation. These reported effects are similar to the effects of cocaine, amphetamines, and MDMA.

However, drug counselors in the United Kingdom have reported that mephedrone can cause hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, blood circulation problems, rashes, anxiety, paranoia, fits, and delusions. Anecdotal information suggests that other side effects may include poor concentration, poor short-term memory, increased heart rate, abnormal heart beats, anxiety, depression, increased sweating, dilated pupils, the inability to normally open the mouth, teeth grinding, and nose bleeds and nose burns, when it is snorted.

MDPV is a psychoactive drug with stimulant properties. In 2010, there were reports that it was being sold as a legal drug alternative and marketed in the United States as "bath salts" in gas stations and convenience stores.

MDPV has been reported to have an effect similar to that caused by using cocaine or amphetamine. The reported effects may include rapid heartbeat, increase in blood pressure, vasoconstriction, sweating, mental: increases in alertness & awareness, increased wakefulness and arousal, anxiety, agitation, perception of a diminished requirement for food and sleep.

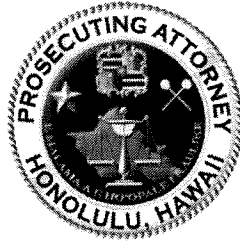
High doses have been observed to cause intense, prolonged panic attacks in stimulant-intolerant users, and there are anecdotal reports of psychosis from sleep withdrawal and addiction at higher doses or more frequent dosing intervals.

The Department respectfully requests that this bill be held.

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SENATE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Twenty-sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawai'i

Thursday, February 3, 2011

RE: H.B. 1217; RELATING TO BATH SALTS.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 1085.

The purpose of this bill is to amend section 712-1240, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to include mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylvalerone, also known as MDPV into the definition of "dangerous drugs".

There has been a recent surge in reports of use and abuse of bath salts as psychoactive drugs that provide a cheap and easily accessible "high". There are many bath salts provided by different commercial suppliers and many of these products contain mephedrone and methylenedioxypropylvalerone.

Subjects abusing these products have reported psychedelic experiences and amphetamine-like stimulant responses. Abusers have also reported episodes of self-mutilation while under the influence of these substances. Another substantial concern is that the interaction of these drugs with other drugs of abuse is not known at this time. This is a problem because most drug abusers are polysubstance abusers. Drug-drug interactions can cause unpredictable psychoactive or toxic responses.

For the following reasons, we support the passage of H.B. 1085. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.