



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

S.B. 2820, Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 20, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports enactment of this
2 Administration proposal as introduced.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This proposal amends duties and responsibilities of the Hawaii Advisory
5 Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS) to provide for more focused
6 attention in addressing the issue of substance abuse as a public health issue by amending Section 329-4,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

8 As the advisory body that is administratively assigned to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division,
9 HACDACS provides community perspectives in the Department of Health (DOH) planning and
10 implementation of substance abuse prevention and treatment services specified in Chapter 321, HRS.

11 When the Department of Public Safety (PSD) was created, responsibility for the registration and
12 control of the manufacture, distribution, prescription and dispensing of controlled substances and
13 precursor or essential chemicals was transferred from the DOH to PSD. Amendments in this
14 "housekeeping" measure will more closely align the duties of the Commission with the core functions of
15 public health: assessment (i.e., monitoring trends and needs), policy development on public health

1 issues, and assurance of appropriate public health services. The scheduling of controlled substances
2 under Part II of Chapter 329, HRS, is a function performed by the Narcotics Enforcement Division
3 within the Department of Public Safety based on guidance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
4 and Drug Enforcement Administration.

5 The proposed statutory amendments will not diminish the Commission's role of advising the
6 Department of Health, the Governor and the Legislature on substance abuse related issues and concerns.
7 In addition, the composition and number of members on the Commission will remain unchanged as will
8 the broad-based representation of the community.

9 The Department respectfully recommends passage of this measure as introduced.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2820
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAII ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

By

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Health
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Room 329

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill 2820 that amends statutory provisions of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances to provide for more focused attention in addressing the issue of substance abuse as a public health issue. The amendments to Section 329-4 HRS would clearly separate the duties of the Department's Narcotics Enforcement Division to maintain and conduct scheduling actions to Hawaii's Uniform Controlled Substance Act, while allowing the Department of Health's Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances to focus on coordinating community programs relating to the prevention of drug abuse.

Section 329-4 was originally written when the Department's Narcotics Enforcement Division was a part of the Department of Health, this changed in 1989, when the Division was transferred to the Attorney General and subsequently transferred to the Department of Public Safety in 1990, without any amendments to this section. PSD supports the amendments being proposed in SB 2820 as it will better describe the current function of the Department of Health's Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.