

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Hearing on Thursday, February 10, 2010

RE: Testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB586 – Relating to Pseudoephedrine

Aloha Senators,

My name is Linda Puppolo.

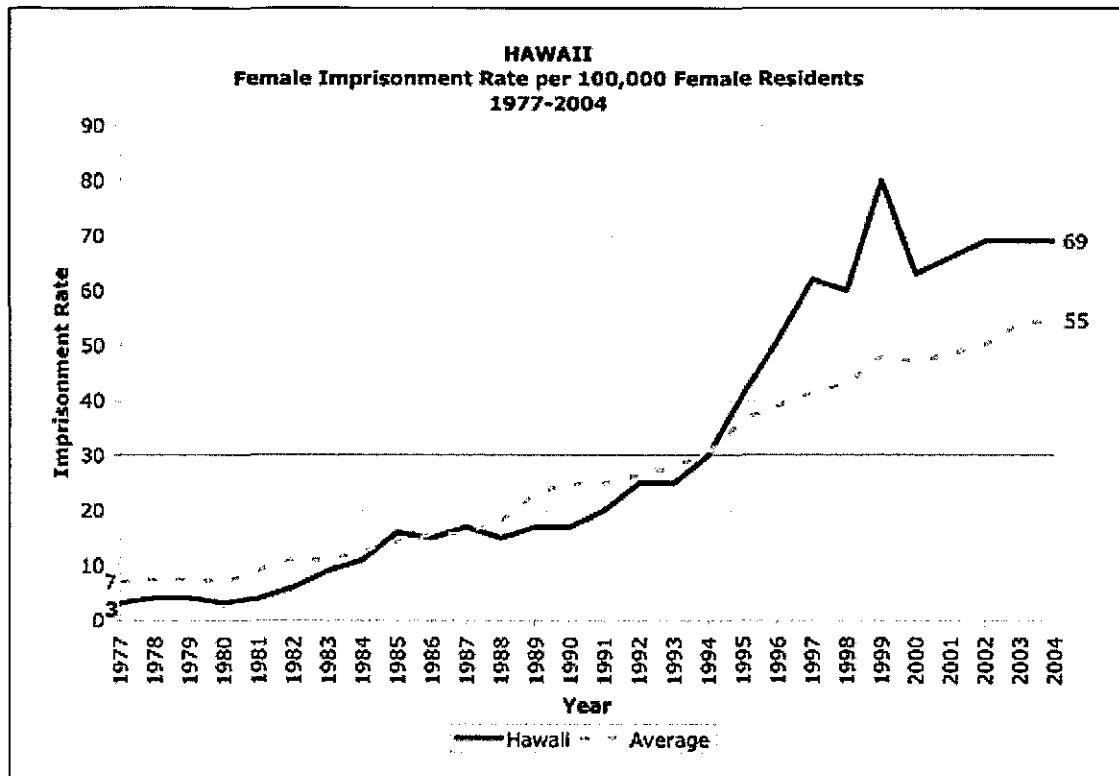
I am writing to you in support of SB586 which I refer to as the “Stop the Meth” Bill.

I am a Maui County resident and intend to attend the hearing for this bill as I believe it is imperative that it becomes law in Hawaii.

All methods of producing Meth involve pseudoephedrine (sinus & allergy over the counter medicines) or ephedrine (asthma medicine). Federal and State laws allow only 9 grams a month to any one individual. The dealers typically send out young people (mostly girls) to “farm” in the stores to buy these over the counter medicines by using fake IDs, going from store to store and asking others to buy for them.

Between 1977 and 2004, Hawaii's female prison population grew by 3,029% with an average annual percent change of 15.2% per year.

Through the late 1970s and entire 1980s, Hawaii's female imprisonment rate was consistently at or below average, relative to other states. In the mid to late 1990s, however, Hawaii's female imprisonment rate began to increase quite dramatically, so that by 2004 its rate was substantially higher than the average across states. In 1977, Hawaii was one of the least punitive states in terms of female imprisonment (ranked 45th); by 2004, Hawaii had climbed to a rank of 16th.



National Geographic has named Meth, “the world’s most dangerous drug”. The main reasons are the following:

- Meth attacks the central nervous system directly affecting both the brain and the spinal cord. The Meth molecule closely resembles the chemical in the brain that gives pleasure, Dopamine, and tricks the brain into giving pleasure to its victim at a rate much higher than the body’s natural production and inhibits any future natural production severely.
- In the brain, Meth, actually attacks the part of the brain that controls impulse control and decision-making ability. In short, it is a “fiend” that protects its own longevity by destroying the very thing that could control it; good decision-making and control over actions.
- The production of Meth is extremely lucrative to both the pharmaceutical companies that sell pseudoephedrine (more is used in production of Meth than by cold sufferers) and the drug dealers that “cook it”. And use is increasing at an alarming rate. There has been an 87% increase in use by 10th graders in Hawaii.
- There are 1.4 million “known” Meth users in the United States enabling the pharmaceutical industry gross revenues of \$600 million annually in the US from the sale of pseudoephedrine. Unfortunately, drug dealers don’t pay taxes so we really don’t know how much they earn.
- If one carton of Sudafed costs \$6 and the other chemicals used in the cooking might raise the cost to \$10 per batch of materials that make \$300 of Meth. It looks like Meth makes a big profit.
- Once addicted, Meth addicts most often hurt their own families including theft, fraud, physical abuse, child neglect & abuse, murder and just daily heartbreak. 43% of all emergency room visits are related to Meth addiction.
- The economic cost directly related to Meth addiction in Hawaii (judiciary, treatment, medical, welfare, etc.) is \$500 million and in the US approx. 23 billion. No Meth—No furloughs?

- One pound of Meth = 5 pounds of toxic waste from the chemicals used to “cook” it. And Meth addicts and dealers are not known to follow EPA directions on where to dump toxic waste.
- Meth is produced in houses, cars, barns and in the pristine rain forests of Hawaii. The addicts, dealers and “cookers” often leave these locations uninhabitable, destroyed and dangerous.
- The average Meth “cook” teaches ten others how to do it and almost all users deal it at some time.
- A typical recipe for Meth can be found on the internet. The chemicals and methods are dangerous. The list of chemicals are as follows:
 - tincture iodine containing iodine, sodium, alcohol
 - pseudoephedrine
 - road flares or match tips
 - drain cleaner
 - white distilled vinegar
 - Lye containing sodium hydroxide
 - brake cleaner containing trichloroethylene

Now look at that list again and imagine that the child that you nurtured and loved is putting those chemicals every day into her body quickly destroying all decision-making ability, her health, her teeth, her relationships, her Mommy-ness (My Grandson, Isaiah’s words), her home, her car, her job, her self-esteem, her emotions, her creativity and maybe her life.

“Pseudoephedrine is the head of the fiend and the only way to kill that fiend is to cut off the head.”

I want to thank my State Senator Shan Tsutsui for his kindness and follow through on my request for this bill. I will never forget that he took the time to really listen to me.

Thank you also for hearing this bill and allowing me this time to testify. Doing something to ease this pain really helps.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Linda Ruth Pappola

Name

Email: lrwerner@hotmail.com

Phone: 808-283-8390

To Submit Testimony by email: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> (follow instructions to submit testimony)

MISSED

I miss you every single day

I think about where you stay

I can't seem to let you go

Late at night I'm pretty low

I think about your drug dealing friends

I wonder when the nightmare ends

They tell me to just forget you

But I will always love my Q

The fiend is winning; you've lost your mind

It's got your soul, you can't be kind

That beautiful girl I nurtured and loved

Seems bound to float to heavens above

Do you even think of your son?

Or feel badly when the day is done?

Do you really want to die?

Or go to jail, or make me cry?

I don't understand that much is true

No drug could have kept me away from you

And because your son deserves the same

I take your place, but not your name

Although I am very pissed

Just know that you are sorely missed