

GM812

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission On Drug Abuse, gubernatorial nominee, CARL BERGQUIST, for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Report Title: Hawai'i Advisory Commission On Drug Abuse

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony SUPPORTING GM812
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, CARL BERGQUIST, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: April 13, 2016, 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Carl Bergquist to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled
4 Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2017.

5 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not
6 limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational,
7 legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to Chapter 329-
8 2 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

9 Mr. Bergquist is the Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii and a Juris
10 Doctor (J.D.) Candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii
11 at Manoa. As the Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, he advocates for
12 changes to Hawaii's state drug policies, liaises with government officials regarding
13 implementation, coordinates with partner organizations for campaigns and actions, and publishes
14 a newsletter and educational materials for the community. The appointment of Carl Bergquist

1 will ensure representation of the community and business affairs segment in Commission
2 deliberations.

3 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
4 of Carl Bergquist to serve on HACDACS.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a volunteer whose
6 appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented on the Commission.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.



Community Health Outreach Work

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TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF CARL BERGQUIST (GM812) FOR THE HAWAII COMMISSION ON DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

HEARING: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 2016 9:30 AM Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support for Carl Bergquist to be approved as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances. Carl is currently the ED of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, where he works tirelessly to promote evidence-based drug policy reforms across Hawaii. I have worked with him since he started in this role and have been very impressed with this strong knowledge of drugs and their impact on our community and his commitment to identifying and disseminating research and best practices in this area. His efforts have supported the CHOW Project in numerous ways including supporting our efforts at addressing the drug overdose epidemic in Hawaii.

The CHOW Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities adversely affected by drug use, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose.

I am currently the chair of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances and while I am not writing officially in that capacity, I can speak to the fact that we need more members with Carl's skills and background. I hope you will strongly consider approving his appointment to the commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Heather Lusk,

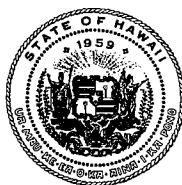
CHOW Executive Director

Hello,

I am writing to submit testimony for Carl Bergquist as member of the Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS). As Carl's spouse of 8 years, I have seen Carl advocate successfully on a wide variety of social justice issues as they relate to marginalized communities. Carl's expertise on the effects of drug use, treatment and incarceration will make him a highly qualified and excellent contributor to this committee.

Jenjira Yahirun, Ph.D
Assistant Researcher, Center on the Family
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

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2515 Campus Road
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Honolulu, HI 96822



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

April 11, 2016

**TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF CARL BERGQUIST (GM812) FOR THE HAWAII
COMMISSION ON DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Thaddeus Pham, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Hawaii Dept. of Health

HEARING: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 2016 9:30 AM Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

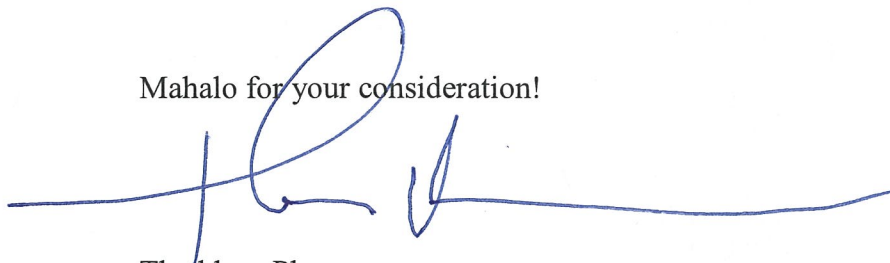
I am writing in strong support for Carl Bergquist to be approved as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances (HACDAC). In his current role as Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, he has promoted evidence-based drug policy reforms across Hawaii to the benefit of our public health community. I have collaborated with him since he started in this role and have witnessed not only his comprehensive knowledge of drugs and drug policy but also their implications for the health and well-being of our local community. His work ethic is steadfast and thorough, demonstrated by his commitment to identifying and disseminating research and best practices in this area. Furthermore, his ability to communicate effectively and mobilize stakeholders will provide invaluable to the HACDAC body.

As the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator for the Hawaii State Department of Health, I collaborate with many community agencies, including the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, to address health for many populations affected by viral hepatitis, especially the drug-using community. Recently, Carl's efforts have supported the Hawaii Department of Health in our collaborative efforts at addressing the drug overdose epidemic in Hawaii. Given my working experience with Carl, I can attest to the value of his contribution to HACDAC from a much-needed public health perspective.

The recommendations and priorities identified by HACDAC will have a bearing on the health of many of our most marginalized and medically fragile communities, and I urge you to strongly consider Carl approving his appointment to the commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thaddeus Pham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thaddeus Pham
Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator
Hawaii State Department of Health
3627 Kilauea Avenue, Suite 305
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Thaddeus.pham@doh.hawaii.gov

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board? *I would like to offer the perspectives of the drug policy reform movement to further the advisory commission's mission of solving problems related to the abuse of controlled substances. Further, I would like to incorporate the perspectives of other commission members into the work of my organization in order to better help those we serve.*

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? *To exchange ideas on how to best assist Hawaii's drug users, to survey treatment and other controlled substance developments (including scheduling) elsewhere in the United States and internationally, to raise awareness among the general public and to advise the Governor regarding avenues for legislative and executive action.*

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer? *In the field of medical marijuana, it is essential that patient consumers can rely on the regulatory system that is being established via Act 241 that created the dispensary system. The quality of available medicine must be subject to the same rigor as other medicines. Also, consumers of prescription painkillers need to be made more aware of the potential for abuse and addiction.*

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board. *I have several years of advocacy experience vis-à-vis local, state and federal officials. At all times, this advocacy has been from the grassroots perspective, representing the interests of those who are often voiceless. While I currently do so for the medical marijuana patients of Hawai'i, those criminalized for their drug use and those at risk of overdosing, I have also represented the low-income immigrant perspective in the past. Currently, I am working to include that latter perspective in my drug policy work, while expanding our work with the Native Hawaiian community. I have served on an advisory board before (for the [Restaurant Opportunities Center United – Los Angeles](#)) and as the Executive Director for the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i, I work closely with our Board of Directors.*

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? *I hope we can expand on current treatment services, highlight the connection between the criminalization of drug users and adverse impacts on public health, seriously examine possible solutions to Hawaii's crystal methamphetamine ("ice") epidemic, and provide advice regarding educational and political action to begin to turn back the tide.*
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board. *Prepared, Dedicated, Compassionate.*
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member. *Working with the CHOW Project, the Department of Health, other health care professionals and several legislators to advance legislation that will increase access to Naloxone ([SB2392](#)), a drug that can help reverse an opioid overdose. At all points, we have been motivated by the prospect of saving lives so treatment can remain an option.*
- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? *No* How would you overcome conflicts of interest? *N/A*