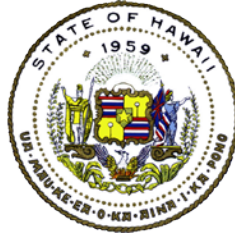


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA  
DIRECTOR

**Cathy Ross**  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
CORRECTIONS

**Shawn H. Tsuha**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
LAW ENFORCEMENT

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 348  
RELATING TO POWDERED ALCOHOL

By  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

Monday, February 2, 2015, 2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** House Bill (HB) 348 which proposes to prohibit the consumption, purchase, possession, or sale of powdered alcohol, except for specific purposes as defined in the bill. PSD recommends that we learn from other states that have legislation that banned powdered alcohol, at least until the United States' Food and Drug Administration approves and regulates the product. The fear of law enforcement is the possibility that this unregulated product could be used/abused by individuals inappropriately or get into the hands of our youth. Powdered alcohol like many other substances could be added to food, candy, and other food products, in order to make these products intoxicating. A certain brand of powdered alcohol sells products such as premium vodka and Puerto Rican rum sold in white powder form. Each packet contains the equivalent of five ounces of alcohol, which according to the manufacturer when mixed with liquid, is equal to a standard mixed drink. Advertised powdered alcohol flavors include the following: Cosmopolitan, Mojito, Powderita and Lemon Drop.

Although the manufacturers of these types of powdered alcohol products insist that individuals would not snort this product because it would burn, law enforcement has seen individuals do just that with vaporized alcohol. Powdered alcohol, like other drugs, could be placed into gel capsules or ingested directly from the package in its powdered form. These products already come manufactured with flavor and can be taken orally, directly from the package in the powdered form, which would make it difficult to identify or detect powdered alcohol smuggled into schools, dances or areas where alcohol is prohibited.

For these reasons, PSD supports the passage of HB 348. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org



KIRK W. CALDWELL  
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO  
MARIE A. McCAULEY  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE LM-SH

February 2, 2015

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Members

Subject: House Bill No. 348, Relating to Powdered Alcohol

I am Lisa Mann, Acting Major of District 6 (Waikiki) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 348, relating to the prohibition of the consumption, purchase, possession, or sale of powdered alcohol.

Powdered alcohol is lightweight and packaged in pouches that are easily concealable and portable. It can easily be smuggled into venues such as schools, arenas, and stadiums. It also allows underage drinkers to conceal their consumption from adults and for alcohol to be consumed in public without detection. The smuggling of alcohol into venues, drinking in public, and underage drinking are already concerns to the HPD. Powdered alcohol would make detection and enforcement that much more challenging.

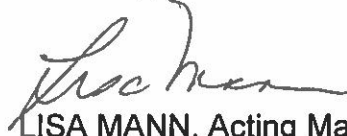
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
and Members

Page 2

February 2, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

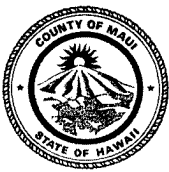
Sincerely,



LISA MANN, Acting Major  
District 6

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police



ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE  
YOUR REFERENCE

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
(808) 244-6400  
FAX (808) 244-6411



TIVOLI S. FAAUMU  
CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

January 30, 2015

**LATE**

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Consumer  
Protection & Commerce  
House of Representative  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Bill No. 348, RELATING TO POWDERED ALCOHOL

Dear Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports the current draft of H.B. No. 348.

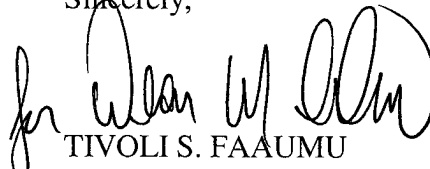
The passage of this bill defines and prohibits the consumption, purchase, possession, or sale of powdered alcohol.

The Maui Police Department believes that having another form of alcohol would not be conducive to the overall health of our people in Hawaii. It would not have any positive purpose in our communities other than in over-the-counter medication, medication that requires a prescription, or for the primary use of conducting scientific research. It would only add to our issues in regards to alcohol abuse by our citizens.

The Maui Police Department asks that you support the passage of H.B. No. 348.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
TIVOLI S. FAAUMU  
Chief of Police

Testimony in Support of HB 348 – Relating to Powdered Alcohol  
Monday, February 2, 2015, 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 325  
Hawaii State Capitol



To: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Rep Justin Woodman, Vice Chair

Fr: Alan Shinn, Executive Director  
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii  
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite A259  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 545-3228 x29

Please accept my testimony on behalf of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii (CDFH) in support of HB 348 – Relating To Powdered Alcohol, that defines and prohibits the consumption, purchase, possession, or sale of powdered alcohol.

Underage drinking is significant problem for our youth ages 12-17 and young adults. The adolescent brain continues to develop until at least age 25 years and can be impaired by chronic use of alcohol and other drugs. In addition, alcohol use is a factor in the three leading causes of death for youth ages, 15-24 years.

Powdered alcohol is similar to alcohol-flavored energy drinks as another novel way for youth to conceal and consume alcohol in different forms. Regardless of the fact that alcohol is illegal to anyone under the age of 21 years, youth will find a way to obtain and use powdered alcohol.

Banning powdered alcohol from Hawaii's marketplace is the best way to protect our youth.

Thank you.