

GM 649

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, CARL BERGQUIST, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

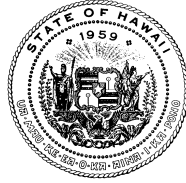
Description:

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 in SUPPORT of GM649
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, CARL BERGQUIST,
for a term to expire 06-30-2021**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 31, 2017 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

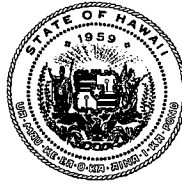
2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Carl Bergquist to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled
4 Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2021.

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

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

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

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a volunteer whose appointment adds
- 2 to the cross-section of community interests represented on the Commission.
- 3 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 29, 2017

**TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF CARL BERGQUIST (GM649) FOR THE HAWAII
COMMISSION ON DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, and Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

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

HEARING: Wednesday, March 31, 2017 9:00 AM Conference Room 229

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

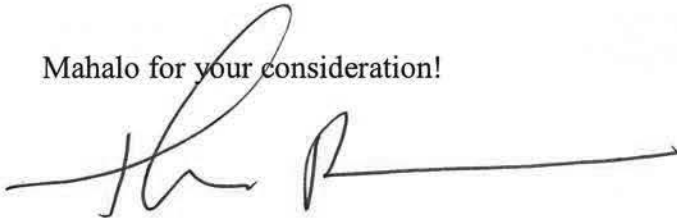
I am writing in strong support for Carl Bergquist to be approved as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances (HACDAC). In his current role as Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, he has promoted evidence-based drug policy reforms across Hawaii to 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 black 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

From: [Jenjira Yahirun](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for Carl Bergquist to HACDACS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:15:08 PM

Dear Senator Baker:

I am writing to offer my support for Carl Bergquist 's nomination for a 4-year term on the Hawaii Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

As Carl's wife and as a concerned resident, I believe he offers a balanced and knowledgeable perspective on the issue of drug policy reform in Hawaii. He is especially committed to ensuring that the state enact policies that do not lead to increasing disparities in incarceration rates for our residents.

I endorse his appointment and thank you for your opportunity for provide testimony.

Best regards,
Jenjira Yahirun, PhD

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:00 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: hlusk@chowproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM649 on Mar 31, 2017 09:00AM

GM649

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 31, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Heather Lusk | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to support Carl Berquist for HACDACs. Carl is already an active member and has much to contribute to the commission and I strongly recommend his confirmation. He has expertise in drug policy which is a much needed asset to the group. Thank you, Heather Lusk

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

March 31, 2017 at 9:00am
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President & Government Relations

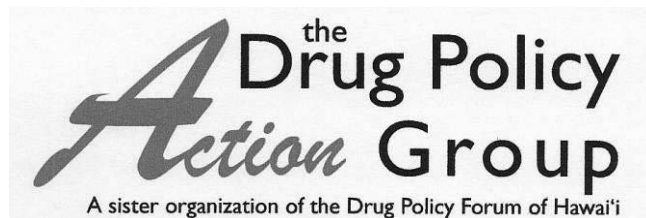
Re: GM 649 – Relating to Carl Bergquist

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President and Government Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support for GM 649 which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee Carl Bergquist, for a term to expire 06-20-2021.

I have known Carl Bergquist personally for two years. He is an enlightened and staunch advocate of thoughtful drug policy. I appreciate his desire to serve and believe he would be a fine addition to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 649 and Carl Bergquist.



PO Box 83, Honolulu, HI 96810 ~ (808) 853-3231

Hawaii's Voice for Sensible, Compassionate, and Just Drug Policy

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH

FROM: PAMELA LICHTY, M.P.H., PRESIDENT

DATE: March 31, 2016, 9:00 a.m., ROOM 229

RE: TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF CARL BERGQUIST (GM649) FOR THE HAWAII COMMISSION ON DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Good morning Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee. My name is Pam Lichty and I'm President of both the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii and the Drug Policy Action Group (DPAG), our governmental affairs sister organization.

I am writing in strong support for Carl Bergquist to be approved as a full term member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances. As you know, Carl has been sitting on HACDACS for the past year to fill out a term of a member who left.

Carl has now been the Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum for almost a year. He has proven very effective in promoting evidence-based, compassionate drug policy reforms across Hawaii. I know that he has valued his time on HACDACS and feels it's a very good match for his "day job". He is also attending the Richardson Law School part time program and will increasingly bring that legal perspective to bear.

I was instrumental in hiring Carl and have worked closely with him since he started in this role. I have been continually impressed with his growing knowledge base, his wide ranging research interests, and the way in which he keeps up with the growing body of research on illicit drugs.

He understands the profound impact of drugs on our community and is committed to identifying and disseminating research and best practices in this area. His efforts this session have focused on issues surrounding the drug overdose epidemic in Hawaii and on improving the 17 year old medical marijuana program.

In short we trust that Carl has been, and will continue to be, a valuable and conscientious member of HACDACS and we heartily endorse his selection.

I hope you will strongly consider approving his appointment to the commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM649

Carl Bergquist: Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I would like to continue offering the perspectives of the drug policy reform movement to further the advisory commission's mission of solving problems related to the use 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. **NOTE: I was originally appointed to fill out the remainder of another member's term – see GM812 of 2016.**

(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 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.

In addition to having served on the Commission for nearly one year now, 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? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?**

N/A.