



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1903
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 1, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Not determined

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this measure
3 to designate September as Hawaii alcohol and opioid addiction awareness and recovery month,
4 and is very grateful to this Committee for understanding the need to raise awareness of substance
5 use disorders and to celebrate those who recover from addiction.

6 The DOH also commends the Committee for designating the month of September
7 because it also coincides with National Recovery Month sponsored by the federal Substance
8 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This year, the theme for
9 Recovery Month 2018 is Join the Voices for Recovery: Invest in Health, Home, Purpose, and
10 Community and the DOH looks forward to promote a similar message. More information on
11 promotional materials and past themes for National Recovery Month is available at
12 www.recoverymonth.gov.

13 The DOH respectfully suggests the new section be renamed to read “**Hawaii substance**
14 **abuse prevention, treatment and recovery month.**” The prevalence of substance use disorders
15 encompass a wide variety of substances besides opioids and many who suffer from the chronic
16 illness of substance abuse, misuse multiple drugs. According to the Hawaii Opioid Action Plan
17 (Dec. 2017):

- 18 • There are an average of nearly 400 nonfatal overdose incidents each year, nearly
19 half of which require hospitalization; and

- 1 • The issue of opioid misuse and addiction cannot be fully appreciated unless seen
2 from from a broader context of a chronic illness perspective, which shows that
3 substance misuse and addiction represents significant public health and economic
4 burdens for Hawaii:
- 5 ○ Workplace drug tests positive for methamphetamine were 410% higher
6 than the national average in 2011;
 - 7 ○ Impaired driving deaths in Hawaii (2010-2014) were 39.4% compared to
8 the national average of 30.0%; and
 - 9 ○ Data from the DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD)-funded
10 providers suggests that methamphetamine was reported as the primary
11 drug of choice upon admission for 53.4% of adults receiving substance
12 misuse treatment in FY2017.

13 Treatment admission data from 2010-2016 in Hawaii further underscores the need for a
14 focus on the broader addiction issue in the state and for a coordinated and comprehensive
15 approach to addiction in Hawaii.

16 The ADAD is committed to addressing both opioid misuse as well as the broader
17 addiction problem in Hawaii. From a larger chronic illness perspective, substance misuse and
18 addiction represents significant public health and economic burdens for Hawaii. This is
19 presented in more detail in the Hawaii Opioid Action Plan.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HB1903 September as Alcohol and Opioid Awareness Month

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:

- Representative John Mizuno, Chair; Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
- Thursday, February 1st, 2018: 9:30 a.m.
- Conference Room 329

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION (HSAC) notes that Hawaii already celebrates September as Hawaii Recovery Month for Alcohol and Substance Abuse:

GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of almost 40 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

Given that methamphetamine is high in Hawaii, we recommend September be similar to what it is now: “Hawaii Recovery Month for Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders.”

Substance use disorders is a better term given that alcohol, methamphetamine and marijuana are the highest treated addictions in Hawaii. Opioid misuse is growing substantially so it is a concern; however, substance use disorders will cover all epidemics.

As part of the annual Governor’s Proclamation, we can address a higher emphasis on opioid addiction concerns in the narrative.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.