HCR-218
Submitted on: 4/15/2019 2:04:43 PM
Testimony for JDC on 4/16/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Bergquist	Testifying for Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i supports this measure. We want to suggest that drug offenses punishable by fines, e.g. certain drug paraphernalia violations (up to $500) and going forward cannabis possession (TBD), are considered by the proposed Task Force on Fair and Proportional Fines.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-218
Submitted on: 4/12/2019 5:11:16 PM
Testimony for JDC on 4/16/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karin Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

After an 'incident' where a person conducted behavior that was in violation of laws that are in place, paid the fine and went out and continued business as normal, I've come across a number of venues where the fine or reprimand didn't fit the damages caused. When I complained about the issue, was told that this would happen; that it was common place; they pay the fine and go back to business as usual. The fines didn't affect the person paying them, as it was minor amount in comparison to the amount they could obtain. With prosecution of repeat offenders being the hardest to enforce as it was up to the office which cases they would go after and which they wouldn't. Now normally, when it's a small issue or something that wouldn't harm another party other than the one conducting the behavior, I wouldn't be as dismayed as I was upon finding out that this party who is in a business that could affect the well being of others, was allowed to continue. So, have a number of others, who's pockets run deep or have the connections to avoid penalties. Would like to see something more along the lines of a penalty fitting the crime, especially for repeat offenders and those who are in a vulnerable position.