GM 707

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, HEATHER LUSK, for a term to expire 6-30-2015. NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



P. O. BOX 3378 HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

Senate Committee on Health

G.M. 707, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, Heather Lusk, for a term to expire 6-30-2015

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H. Director of Health April 13, 2011; 3:00 p.m.

1 Department's Position: The Department of Health strongly supports confirmation of

2 Heather Lusk to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled

3 Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire on June 30, 2015.

4 Fiscal Implications: Not applicable.

5 Purpose and Justification: To confirm the appointment of Heather Lusk to serve on

6 HACDACS representing the educational segment of the community.

7 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not

8 limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational,

9 legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the community.

10 Heather Lusk is the Assistant Director for the Community Health Outreach Work

11 (C.H.O.W.) Project whose mission is to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other blood

borne pathogens among high-risk drug users, especially injection drug users (IDUs) in the State of

13 Hawaii. Prior to assuming her present position, Ms. Lusk served as the Hepatitis C Coordinator

- 14 with the Department of Health, STD/AIDS Prevention Branch. Her responsibilities as the
- 15 Hepatitis C Coordinator included: developing and implementing the State's viral Hepatitis
- 16 prevention programs and implementing the Hepatitis C strategic plan, coordinating Hepatitis C

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H. DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

> In reply, please refer to: File:

1	counseling and testing and Hepatitis A/B immunizations in HIV/STD settings; and promoting
2	awareness, conducting trainings, building collaborations, and fostering the integration of viral
3	Hepatitis services statewide.
4	Ms. Lusk has extensive experience in public health. In addition to serving on the boards
5	of organizations such as Harm Reduction Hawaii, the Hawaii Immunization Coalition, and the
6	Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii, she has developed curricula and conducted trainings on HIV,
7	STDs and Hepatitis, and has had her work published in professional publications. Her
8	professional experience both in Hawaii and in California as a public health educator, trainer and
9	counselor would be assets to Commission deliberations.
10	We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration in confirming
11	Heather Lusk to serve on HACDACS as a representative of the educational segment of the
12	community in Commission deliberations.
13	Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this appointment.
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April 13, 2011

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Health

From: Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director

RE: GM 707—Gubernatorial Nominee Heather Lusk to Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 3:00 p.m., Room 229

Position: Support

Good afternoon Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the committee. I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i. It is my great pleasure to appear before you today in support of Heather Lusk's nomination to the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

She has the background and experience to serve on the council. She is currently with the CHOW project, a statewide community-based agency which works with some of the highest risk active drug users in the State. The primary goal of the agency is to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne pathogens and to link people to drug treatment when they are ready.

She was previously the Hepatitis Coordinator with the Hawai'i State Department of Health, also working with a high-risk population. She conducted a variety of training sessions and is well regarded for her knowledge on hepatitis. In all of her roles, I have known her to be hard-working, genuinely caring, and very generous with her knowledge and her time.

She is enthusiastic, seeks continuing education, and is engaged with a variety of populations within our community. She has worked with youth who have never experimented with drugs to people in recovery from drug abuse and almost every variation in-between.

I know she will be able to contribute greatly to the council. I respectfully ask the committee to confirm her nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.

Board of Directors Pamela Lichty, M.P.H. President

Kat Brady Vice President

Heather Lusk Treasurer

Katherine Irwin, Ph.D. Secretary

Michael Kelley, D.Phil.

Richard S. Miller, Prof. of Law Emer.

Robert Perkinson, Ph.D.

Donald Topping, Ph.D. Founder 1929-2003

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Email: info@dpfhi.org Website: www.dpfhi.org SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 3:00 P.M. State Capitol Room 229

GM 707 - Testimony in support of Heather Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS). I have known Ms. Lusk for seven years and I have worked closely with her on numerous committees, trainings, workshops, and conferences. She is well respected and liked by her colleagues. Furthermore, Ms. Lusk is dependable, intelligent, and passionate about all of her work.

Ms. Lusk has a long history of working with drug users and the people who serve them. For the past 7 years, she has been the Hepatitis C Coordinator with the Hawai'i Department of Health where she developed and implemented a statewide education, prevention and care program. With 2/3 of all new hepatitis C infections occurring in people who inject drugs, Ms. Lusk has become an expert in working with this population. She conducts trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, is on the Advisory Council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and has been on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai'i. Ms. Lusk is currently working with the CHOW Project, a program that serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai'i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and link people to drug treatment and other services.

Ms. Lusk has worked with youth, active drug users, people in recovery, the incarcerated and other communities affected by drugs. Her experience, connection with community and commitment to evidence-based drug prevention and treatment makes her a strong candidate for HACDACS. I know that Ms. Lusk will make significant contributions to your council and to the people of our state. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

P. Jayne Bopp, MPH, MA

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 3:00 P.M. State Capitol Room 229

GM 707 - Testimony in support of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Health Committee:

I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

Ms. Lusk has been a valuable member of our Advisory Council for The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services during the past six years and has been extremely helpful regarding our efforts to address the treatment needs of chronically addicted adults in Hawaii. Ms. Lusk has provided excellent training on Hepatitis education and prevention for our treatment staff, has helped us access valuable resources, and is totally committed to making a difference in the State's effort to reduce drug abuse.

Heather has a long history of working with drug users and the people who serve them. For the past 7 years, she has been the Hepatitis C Coordinator with the Hawai'i Department of Health where she developed and implemented a statewide education, prevention and care program. With 2/3 of all new hepatitis C infections occurring in people who inject drugs, Ms. Lusk has become an expert in working with this population. She conducts trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, and has been served on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai'i. Ms. Lusk is currently working with the CHOW Project, a program that serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai'i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and link people to drug treatment and other services.

Ms. Lusk has worked with youth, active drug users, people in recovery, incarcerated felons, and other communities affected by drugs. Her experience, connection with community and commitment to evidence-based drug prevention and treatment makes her a strong candidate for HACDACS.

I whole-heartedly endorse the nomination of Heather Lusk for HACDACS.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input regarding this important appointment.

Larry Williams

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 3:00 P.M. State Capitol Room 229

GM 707 - Testimony in support of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

I have worked in collaboration with Heather Lusk for the last 7 years. Heather has and continues to be a huge support of the HIV Prevention work I do at the Life Foundation. During these 7 years, Heather has provided on-going leadership, support and trainings to my staff in order for us to better serve those most at risk for contracting HIV and hepatitis.

Ms. Lusk has a long history of working with drug users and the people who serve them. For the past 7 years, she has been the Hepatitis C Coordinator with the Hawai'i Department of Health where she developed and implemented a statewide education, prevention and care program. With 2/3 of all new hepatitis C infections occurring in people who inject drugs, Ms. Lusk has become an expert in working with this population. She conducts trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, is on the Advisory Council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and has been on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai'i. Ms. Lusk is currently working with the CHOW Project, a program that serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai'i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and link people to drug treatment and other services.

Ms. Lusk has worked with youth, active drug users, people in recovery, the incarcerated and other communities affected by drugs. Her experience, connection with community and commitment to evidence-based drug prevention and treatment makes her a strong candidate for HACDACS.

Ms. Lusk is a woman of integrity and cares deeply about Hawaii. Ms. Lusk would be a great addition to the advisory council.

Kunane Dreier

green2 - Kealaonalehua

From: Sent: To: Subject: DQ [dq@malama-pono.org] Monday, April 11, 2011 4:01 PM HTHTestimony Heather Lusk nomination to HACDACS GN 707

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 3:00 P.M. State Capitol Room 229

GM 707 - Testimony in support of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

On behalf of Malama Pono Health Services, a Kauai based non-profit community service agency, I encourage you to confirm Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

Malama Pono's mission is to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, infectious hepatitis and STDs on Kauai through education and that mission has been strongly supported and assisted by Ms. Lusk for the last seven years. She has succeeded in providing high quality hepatitis prevention programming and services under a markedly restricted budget (\$75,000 for the entire state of Hawaii). This is remarkable and shows a very creative ability to form collaborations and partnerships across the state. Because of her efforts the people of Kauai are better educated regarding infectious hepatitis and our community is safer as a result of programming she initiated allowing us to provide free and confidential Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing to high risk groups on the island.

Ms. Lusk has a long history of working with drug users and the people who serve them. For the past 7 years, she has been the Hepatitis C Coordinator with the Hawai'i Department of Health where she developed and implemented a statewide education, prevention and care program. With 2/3 of all new hepatitis C infections occurring in people who inject drugs, Ms. Lusk has become an expert in working with this population. She conducts trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, is on the

Advisory Council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and has been on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai`i. Ms. Lusk is currently working with the CHOW Project, a program that serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai`i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and link people to drug treatment and other services.

Ms. Lusk has worked with youth, active drug users, people in recovery, the incarcerated and other communities affected by drugs. Her experience as well as connection with community and

commitment to evidence-based drug prevention and treatment makes her a strong candidate for HACDACS.

Me ke aloha,

D.Q. Jackson RN, M.S. Executive Director

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 3:00 P.M. State Capitol Room 229

GM 707 - Testimony in support of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS). I have worked with Ms. Lusk for the last two years and have been very impressed by her knowledge, compassion, and her ability to communicate effectively to Hawaiians' from all walks of life and is highly skilled in building consensus among even the most diverse groups of people.

Ms. Lusk has a long history of working with drug users and the people who serve them. For the past 7 years, she has been the Hepatitis C Coordinator with the Hawai`i Department of Health where she developed and implemented a statewide education, prevention and care program. With 2/3 of all new hepatitis C infections occurring in people who inject drugs, Ms. Lusk has become an expert in working with this population. She conducts trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, is on the Advisory Council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and has been on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai`i. Ms. Lusk is currently working with the Community Health Outreach Work Project (CHOW), a program that serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai`i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and link people to drug treatment and other services.

Ms. Lusk has worked with youth, active drug users, people in recovery, the incarcerated, and other communities affected by drugs. Her experience, connection with community, and commitment to evidence-based drug prevention and treatment makes her a strong candidate for HACDACS. I know of no one more qualified or committed to the concerns of the Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Sincerely,

Wm Michael Johnson, Ph.D. Executive Director CHOW Project

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 3:00 P.M. State Capitol Room 229

GM 707 - Testimony in support of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of the Governor's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

I submit this testimony in support of Ms. Lusk as a private citizen. I have worked closely with Ms. Lusk for the past seven years in my capacity as Chief of the STD/AIDS Prevention Branch, Communicable Disease Division of the Hawaii Department of Health. Ms. Lusk worked as the Department's Adult Viral Hepatitis Coordinator, a position that focuses on prevention of transmission of hepatitis A, B and C among populations at risk, particularly substance users and injection drug users. Through her extensive knowledge of the subject area and passion to support underserved populations Ms. Lusk provided outstanding leadership statewide. She provided education, training, motivation and support to a wide range of agencies and individuals to collaborate in providing hepatitis services.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and national organizations like the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) has sought our Ms. Lusk's input and recommendations on a number of issues related to prevention, support and care of substance users. We can be justly proud of the representation she provided for Hawaii on the national level.

Ms. Lusk conducts trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, is on the Advisory Council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and has been on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai'i. Ms. Lusk is currently working with the CHOW Project, a program that serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai'i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and link people to drug treatment and other services.

Ms. Lusk has worked with youth, active drug users, people in recovery, the incarcerated and other communities affected by drugs. Her experience, connection with community and commitment to evidence-based drug prevention and treatment makes her a strong candidate for HACDACS.

I unreservedly recommend Ms. Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. She is an outstanding, dedicated and effective public health professional who has the ability to see the bigger picture and deal in details at the same time. She is an asset for Hawaii.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Whiticar

whiticar@lava.net



A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i PO Box 61233, Honolulu, HI 96839 ~ (808) 988-4386

Dedicated to safe, responsible, and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Pamela Lichty, MPH President

DATE: April 13, 2011, 9 a.m., room 229

RE: GM 707 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai`i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee. I'm testifying today in strong support of the Governor's nomination of Heather Lusk for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

I have known Ms. Lusk for the past 7-8 years in various capacities. She is a valued board member of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i of which I am Co-Founder and President.

I have also interacted with her in my capacity as Chair of the state's Sterile Needle Exchange Oversight Committee. She has been an active participant in our quarterly meetings lending her expertise and insights in her former position as Hepatitis C Coordinator for the state. With 2/3 of all new hepatitis C infections occurring in people who inject drugs, Ms. Lusk's expertise in this area is highly relevant to the mission of HACDACS

In her new position, Ms. Lusk is working with the CHOW Project which serves some of the highest risk drug users in Hawai'i to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens and to link people to drug treatment and other services.

I have also worked with her on the planning committee for a successful state-wide health conference in 2009 and have seen her do an excellent presentation at a national conference on methamphetamine abuse in Salt Lake City.

She has conducted trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors through the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, is on the Advisory Council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services, and has been on several community advisory boards for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded programs in Hawai`i.

Her lengthy list of community affiliations illustrates her strong commitment to enhancing and improving public health and drug policy in our state. She also has a deep knowledge of state and non profit health agencies and organizations in the state and the interrelationships among them.

On a personal level she is extremely dedicated, hard-working, and can always be counted on to honor her (many!) commitments. She is also an excellent panelist and presenter as I have observed in both state and national contexts.

In sum, I think Ms. Lusk will be a valuable addition to HACDACS and I urge you to confirm her to this important commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be pleased to address any questions you may have.

April 13, 2011

To: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Health

From: Heather Lusk

RE: In support of GM 707—Gubernatorial Nominee Heather Lusk to the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 3:00 p.m., Room 229

Good afternoon Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the committee, I am Heather Lusk, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on my nomination for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS). I would be honored to serve on HACDACS and feel my experience and perspective will be an asset to the commission.

I have a diverse background which spans the continuum of drug prevention and substance abuse treatment activities. Some of those activities include:

- conducting drug education and prevention workshops with youth in high schools and homeless youth centers;
- counseling youth and adults one-on-one about the physical, cognitive and psychological effects of drugs;
- providing behavior change counseling with people in drug treatment and teaching them about HIV and viral hepatitis prevention;
- conducting trainings and presentations to health and social service providers on the harmful effects of drug use;
- coordinating programs which contain a drug prevention and drug education component;

These experiences have granted me the opportunity to hear and learn from a variety of people from youth who have never experimented with drugs to people in recovery from drug abuse and almost every variation in-between. I just left a position with the Department of Health (DOH) where I was the Hepatitis C Coordinator for almost seven years. Two-thirds of all new hepatitis C infections occur in persons who inject drugs, so I've become an expert in working with current and former injection drug users. Given that one of the roles HACDACS is charged with is acting in an advisory capacity to the DOH, my experience working within DOH will give me the background and context within which HACDACS recommendations are implemented. HACDACS is also responsible to the Department of Public Safety and while I haven't worked for them, I worked closely with PSD staff in my previous DOH position, have a Bachelors' in Criminal Justice and have conducted educational sessions in many of Hawai`i's correctional facilities. In addition to my previous experience, I am currently on the advisory council for Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and I conduct quarterly trainings for Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSAC) on "Integrating STDs, HIV and Viral Hepatitis into Drug and Alcohol Counseling" which keeps me engaged with the drug treatment community. As a current member of the Board of Directors of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i, I am able to keep up to date on the most proven and effective drug policies.

I currently work with the CHOW Project, a statewide community-based agency which works with some of the highest risk active drug users in the State. The primary goal of the agency is to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne pathogens and to link people to drug treatment when they are ready. We have a lengthy annual evaluation which includes interviews with a random sample of 150 injection drug users and provides information on trends in drug use across the State.

One of the most important lessons I have learned in approaching drug abuse is the importance of using data to drive programs and utilizing evidence-based interventions that are culturally appropriate to the target population. For example, the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data from Hawaii high schools indicates that while prescription drug use within the past month (without a prescription) has gone up (2007 = 6.5%, 2009 = 8.6%), inhalant use has gone down (2005 = 9.1%, 2007 = 5.1% and 2009 = 4.3%). This indicates a need to focus on the misuse of prescription drugs among youth in Hawai'i.

Using data from YRBS and other sources to identify trends in drug use in Hawai'i will help HACDACS give data-driven recommendations to the Department of Health. Ensuring that programs and interventions designed to prevent and/or treat drug addiction are science-based (such as those in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices) is another role of HACDACS since our limited resources should be allocated to best practices that have been proven to be effective.

With my strong connection to community and commitment to evidence-based practices, I feel I would make a valuable addition to HACDACS. I look forward to serving my community by being a collaborative and active member of the commission.

I respectfully ask the committee to give me the opportunity to serve on the commission and approve my nomination. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk