

A the Drug Policy *Action* Group

A sister organization of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
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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: April 13, 2016, 9:30 a.m., ROOM 229

RE: TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF CARL BERGQUIST (GM812) 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 member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances. Carl is currently the Executive Director of the Drug Policy Forum where he has proven very effective in promoting evidence-based, compassionate drug policy reforms across Hawaii.

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 16 year old medical marijuana program.

In short we believe that Carl will 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.