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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE AND COUNTIES TO PRIORITIZE AND DIRECT ALL  
AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO SUPPORTING COORDINATED INTERAGENCY  
COLLABORATION AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AIMED AT  
ADDRESSING THE ONGOING FENTANYL EPIDEMIC.

1           WHEREAS; Hawai'i is experiencing an increasing record number  
2 of drug over-dose deaths; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, within this record number of overdose deaths,  
5 greater than thirty percent are caused by opioids, and the  
6 majority of the opioid overdose deaths were caused by opioids  
7 such as fentanyl; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, opioids are a class of drugs that act on the  
10 endorphin and pain receptors in the human brain, and which  
11 include prescription pain medications, as well as heroin and  
12 illicitly manufactured non-medical fentanyl; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, illicitly manufactured non-medical fentanyl is  
15 mixed into all known street drugs, including cannabis, and is  
16 pressed into fake look-alike pills, including fake oxytocin,  
17 Adderall, Xanax, and others; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, according to the CDC, fentanyl is up to fifty  
20 times stronger than heroin and one hundred times stronger than  
21 morphine, and, according to the United States Drug Enforcement  
22 Administration (DEA), a single two milligram dose, the  
23 equivalent of ten to fifteen grains of table salt, can be  
24 lethal; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, the mixing of fentanyl into other substances is a  
27 cause of unintentional fentanyl poisoning and overdose deaths in  
28 all age groups by persons unaware they are consuming fentanyl,  
29 including teens in the State who have been identified in the  
30 press and by family members; and  
31



1 WHEREAS, these overdose deaths from synthetic opioids  
2 represent an exponential increase since 2017; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, this rapid increase mirrors the trajectory of the  
5 fentanyl overdose crisis on the continental United States that  
6 began in 2013, and can reasonably be attributed to the arrival  
7 of fentanyl in the State; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, the availability and affordability of fentanyl  
10 contributes to its dramatically increasing use within the State.  
11 According to the DEA, fentanyl has a street price of less than  
12 \$20 for a single dose; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, according to the Honolulu Emergency Services  
15 Department, currently three out of every ten overdose calls to  
16 emergency medical services involve fentanyl, and, according to  
17 the CDC, one person in the State dies of an overdose every  
18 twenty-eight hours; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, effective United States Food and Drug  
21 Administration-approved medications that treat opioid addition,  
22 including buprenorphine, naltrexone, and methadone, are  
23 available yet underutilized by Hawai'i's health providers, thus  
24 further increasing the risk of opioid overdoses and deaths; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, public health experts, including those at the CDC  
27 and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
28 Administration, recommend increasing access of naloxone  
29 hydrochloride, a pure opioid antagonist, to prevent death due to  
30 opioid overdose; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, studies have found that providing opioid overdose  
33 training and naloxone kits can help people identify signs of an  
34 opioid-related drug overdose and can help reduce opioid overdose  
35 mortality. Naloxone distribution programs also are endorsed by  
36 the American Medical Association as a best practice to prevent  
37 overdose-related injuries and deaths; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the Legislature has a precedent of enacting laws  
40 that support expanded access to opioid antagonists and the role  
41 of registered pharmacists in the education, administration,  
42 dispensing, and prescription of opioid antagonists; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Legislature also recently passed Act 111,  
3 Session Laws of 2023, which decriminalizes fentanyl test strips,  
4 thus allowing people to easily detect contaminated drugs and  
5 avoid accidental and fatal drug overdoses; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, because unhealthy drug use is multifactorial,  
8 coordinated interagency collaboration and public-private  
9 partnerships are also necessary to effectively combat the opioid  
10 and fentanyl epidemic through various approaches, including but  
11 not limited to education and prevention; screening and early  
12 intervention; drug treatment, recovery support, and harm  
13 reduction services; and increased drug interdiction and law  
14 enforcement efforts; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, one example of an ongoing interagency  
17 collaboration is the Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force, which  
18 was formed with the mission to reduce the demand and supply of  
19 illicit drugs in all age groups through the foregoing  
20 coordinated interagency approach; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, since its establishment, the Hawai'i Island  
23 Fentanyl Task Force has worked with national organizations,  
24 state and county agencies, nonprofit organizations, and numerous  
25 individuals to:

- 26  
27 (1) Produce public service announcements, print media, and  
28 social media awareness and educational campaigns  
29 regarding fentanyl;  
30  
31 (2) Present over four hundred educational sessions in  
32 schools and to community groups;  
33  
34 (3) Provide over twelve thousand Narcan kits to  
35 communities at dozens of pop-up events island wide;  
36  
37 (4) Collaborate with the Hawai'i county police and fire  
38 departments to develop a drug addiction and overdose  
39 resource card for patrol police officers and emergency  
40 medical services first responders; and  
41



1 (5) Convene two Island-wide summits, one in 2022, and one  
 2 in 2023, and a recent statewide stakeholder training  
 3 on Fentanyl Task Force engagement and awareness; and  
 4

5 WHEREAS, as evidenced by the accomplishments of the Hawai'i  
 6 Island Fentanyl Task Force, interagency collaboration and  
 7 public-private partnerships between the State, counties, and  
 8 other stakeholders should be expanded to address the fentanyl  
 9 epidemic on other islands as well; now, therefore,  
 10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
 12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
 13 House of Representatives concurring, that the State and counties  
 14 are urged to prioritize and direct all available resources to  
 15 supporting coordinated interagency collaboration and public-  
 16 private partnerships aimed at addressing the ongoing fentanyl  
 17 epidemic; and  
 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional  
 21 delegation; the Administrator of the centers for Medicare and  
 22 Medicaid Services; Governor; Director of Health, who is  
 23 requested to distribute copies of this concurrent resolution to  
 24 all hospital medical directors and chief executive officers of  
 25 hospitals and substance use disorder treatment and recovery  
 26 programs operating in the State; Director of Human Services;  
 27 Superintendent of Education; Director of Law Enforcement; State  
 28 Public Defender; Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court;  
 29 Insurance Commissioner, who is requested to distribute copies of  
 30 this concurrent resolution to all health insurers in the State;  
 31 Chairperson of the Hawaii Medical Board, who is requested to  
 32 distribute copies of this concurrent resolution to all medical  
 33 practitioners licensed in the State; and the Mayors, Chiefs of  
 34 Police, and Prosecuting Attorneys of each county.  
 35  
 36  
 37

OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'DKR' in a stylized, cursive font, positioned above a horizontal line.

