

MAR 0 8 2024

---

---

# SENATE 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

32 WHEREAS, these overdose deaths from synthetic opioids  
33 represent an exponential increase since 2017; and  
34



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

5  
6 WHEREAS, the availability and affordability of fentanyl  
7 contributes to its dramatically increasing use within the State.  
8 According to the DEA, fentanyl has a street price of less than  
9 \$20 for a single dose; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, according to the Honolulu Emergency Services  
12 Department, currently three out of every ten overdose calls to  
13 emergency medical services involve fentanyl, and, according to  
14 the CDC, one person in the State dies of an overdose every  
15 twenty-eight hours; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, effective United States Food and Drug  
18 Administration-approved medications that treat opioid addition,  
19 including buprenorphine, naltrexone, and methadone, are  
20 available yet underutilized by Hawai'i's health providers, thus  
21 further increasing the risk of opioid overdoses and deaths; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, public health experts, including those at the CDC  
24 and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
25 Administration, recommend increasing access of naloxone  
26 hydrochloride, a pure opioid antagonist, to prevent death due to  
27 opioid overdose; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, studies have found that providing opioid overdose  
30 training and naloxone kits can help people identify signs of an  
31 opioid-related drug overdose and can help reduce opioid overdose  
32 mortality. Naloxone distribution programs also are endorsed by  
33 the American Medical Association as a best practice to prevent  
34 overdose-related injuries and deaths; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, the Legislature has a precedent of enacting laws  
37 that support expanded access to opioid antagonists and the role  
38 of registered pharmacists in the education, administration,  
39 dispensing, and prescription of opioid antagonists; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, the Legislature also recently passed Act 111,  
42 Session Laws of 2023, which decriminalizes fentanyl test strips,



1 thus allowing people to easily detect contaminated drugs and  
2 avoid accidental and fatal drug overdoses; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, because unhealthy drug use is multifactorial,  
5 coordinated interagency collaboration and public-private  
6 partnerships are also necessary to effectively combat the opioid  
7 and fentanyl epidemic through various approaches, including but  
8 not limited to education and prevention; screening and early  
9 intervention; drug treatment, recovery support, and harm  
10 reduction services; and increased drug interdiction and law  
11 enforcement efforts; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, one example of an ongoing interagency  
14 collaboration is the Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force, which  
15 was formed with the mission to reduce the demand and supply of  
16 illicit drugs in all age groups through the foregoing  
17 coordinated interagency approach; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, since its establishment, the Hawai'i Island  
20 Fentanyl Task Force has worked with national organizations,  
21 state and county agencies, nonprofit organizations, and numerous  
22 individuals to:

- 23  
24 (1) Produce public service announcements, print media, and  
25 social media awareness and educational campaigns  
26 regarding fentanyl;  
27  
28 (2) Present over four hundred educational sessions in  
29 schools and to community groups;  
30  
31 (3) Provide over twelve thousand Narcan kits to  
32 communities at dozens of pop-up events island wide;  
33  
34 (4) Collaborate with the Hawai'i county police and fire  
35 departments to develop a drug addiction and overdose  
36 resource card for patrol police officers and emergency  
37 medical services first responders; and  
38  
39 (5) Convene two Island-wide summits, one in 2022, and one  
40 in 2023, and a recent statewide stakeholder training  
41 on Fentanyl Task Force engagement and awareness; and  
42




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

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
9 that the State and counties are urged to prioritize and direct  
10 all available resources to supporting coordinated interagency  
11 collaboration and public-private partnerships aimed at  
12 addressing the ongoing fentanyl epidemic; and  
13

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

OFFERED BY:

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKA', is written over a horizontal line.