



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR64  
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.**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

April 11, 2024, 11: 15 AM Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) provides the
- 4 following testimony on behalf of the Department of Health (Department).
- 5 The resolution urges the state and counties to prioritize and direct all available resources to
- 6 support coordinated interagency collaboration and public-private partnerships aimed at
- 7 addressing the ongoing fentanyl epidemic.
- 8 Recent Hawai'i death certificate data show a greater prevalence of fatal opioid poisonings among
- 9 residents due to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.
- 10 The Department in February 2024 worked with the Hawai'i Opioid Settlement Advisory
- 11 Committee (HOSAC) to use settlement funds to support a statewide stakeholder training with the
- 12 Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force. The HOSAC takes an interagency approach with a broad
- 13 membership encompassing the following counties and agencies:
- 14
  - The mayor, or mayor's designee, from each of the following: the County of Hawai'i, the
  - 15 County of Kaua'i, the County of Maui, and the City and County of Honolulu;

- 1       • A designee of the Director of the Department of Health;
- 2       • The director of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or designee;
- 3       • The Superintendent of the Department of Education, or designee; and
- 4       • The University of Hawai‘i Medical School President, or designee.

5       In addition to the purchase of naloxone and fentanyl test strips, the Department in consultation  
6       with the HOSAC is also working on an agreement with the County of Hawai‘i to expand  
7       interagency coordination through the formation of fentanyl task forces on Oahu, Maui and  
8       Kaua‘i.

9       Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony of  
THE HAWAII ISLAND FENTANYL TASK FORCE**

**Before the House Committee on  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, April 11, 2024  
11:15 AM  
State Capitol Room 329 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
S.C.R. 64 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.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 64.

Across Hawai'i, every twenty-eight hours, someone dies from an accidental opioid or fentanyl-related overdose. We consider this a public health emergency and are ringing the alarm.

This epidemic can be stopped by addressing the root causes of drug use, expanding access to treatment and harm reduction strategies, providing prevention through education, and reducing the supply of illicit opioids entering our islands – all initiatives the Hawai'i Island Fentanyl Task Force is already doing.

**We respectfully request one minor amendment on page one, line 16: to change the word “oxytocin” to “oxycodone.”**

Defeating this war on fentanyl will require collaboration and building coalitions beyond our counties. We strongly urge you to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 64.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.